

BARRE GAZETTE

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Deficit spending approved for snow removal

By Ellenor Downer
Staff Writer

BARRE – The board of selectmen approved an additional \$40,000 over budget for snow removal, the only account allowed to overspend.

Town accountant Jean Joel said the snow removal account was overspent by about \$19,000 on the payroll side. There was about \$38,000 left on the material side of the total \$105,000 budgeted.

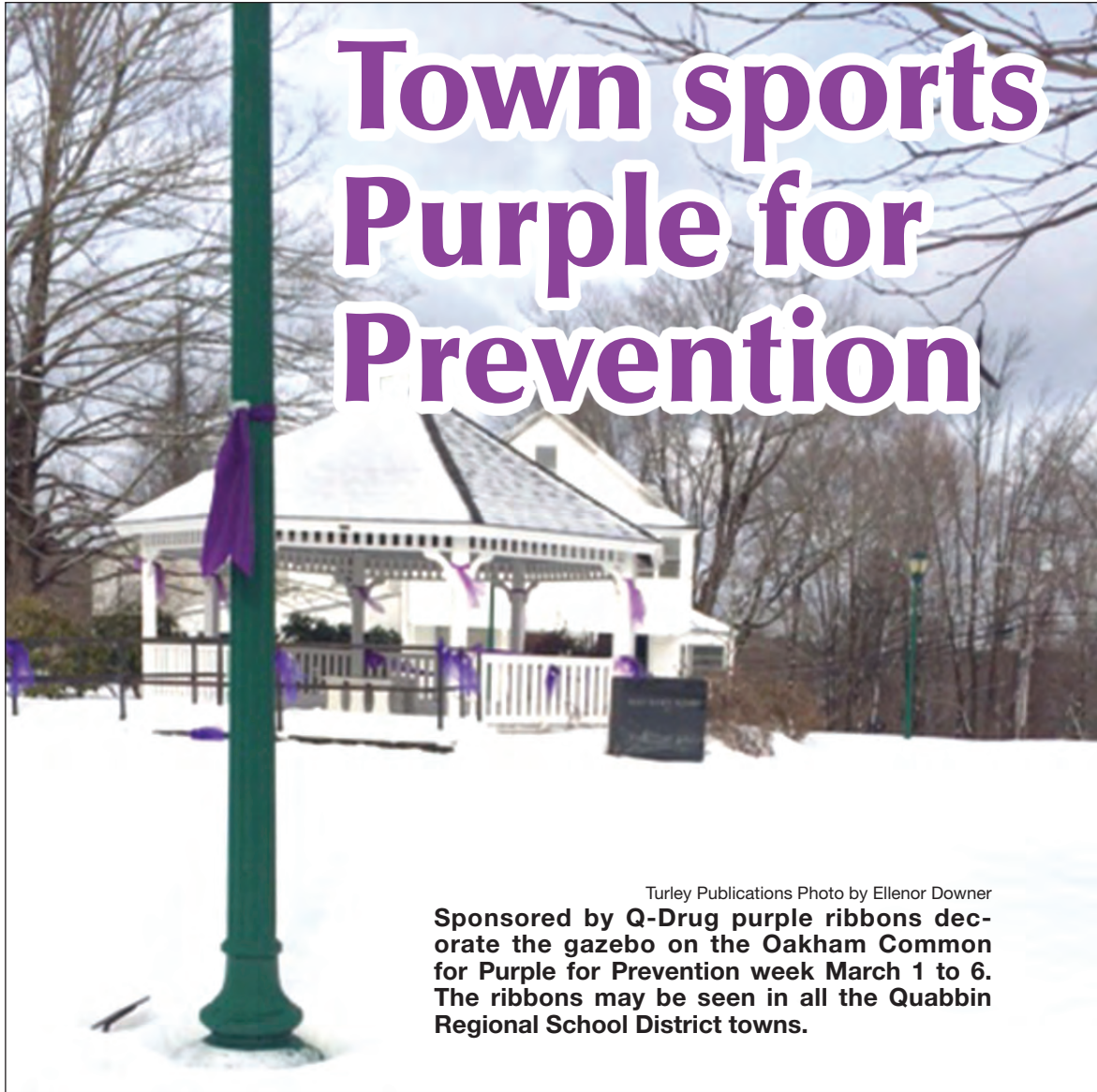
Annual report dedication

Selectmen received from Lester Paquin nine names for possible dedication of the annual report. Selectman chair Greg O'Sullivan said he hoped to get more background on the nominees before the board voted. Selectman Matthew Urban said he didn't have enough information on the names and knew only one or two. The board decided to have Paquin meet with them to discuss the matter.

Department of Fish and Game

Selectmen received notice from the Department of Fish and Game regarding acquiring town owned property of about 90 acres around the old reservoir. The land was adjacent to the East Quabbin Land Trust property. Selectman Urban said he was not a fan of the state (DCR) closing its land off to public use in the watershed area. They locked the gates at the Ware River. He said the town had "bad luck" dealing with the state in the past and didn't see any benefit. Selectman O'Sullivan said he was skeptical of letting them [the state] have anymore land around the water and he didn't trust them. Urban said the Planning Board was developing a Master Plan and should keep this land. The board

See BARRE, page 5



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer
Sponsored by Q-Drug purple ribbons decorate the gazebo on the Oakham Common for Purple for Prevention week March 1 to 6. The ribbons may be seen in all the Quabbin Regional School District towns.

Town administrator makes statement on Detective Chatigny

HUBBARDSTON – In a statement from the Town Administrator in response to the Disposition Agreement signed between the Massachusetts State Ethics Commission and Detective Scott Chatigny,

Town Administrator Ryan McLane said the town accepted the formal resignation of Detective Scott Chatigny. This resignation was accepted based on the findings of the State Ethics Commission Disposition Agreement dated Jan. 13, 2021. McLane said he wanted to thank Detective Chatigny for his nearly 10 years of uniformed service to the Hubbardston community.

McLane said, "The town of Hubbardston is mindful of all actions that can decrease trust in government. Any violations that might decrease trust, real or perceived, are not tolerated. The town has taken many steps to improve the transparency of our town government and put in place policies and safeguards to properly our serve residents. We continually evaluate our processes to ensure they are con-

sistent with our public mission and would continue this practice regardless of these recent events."

However, in response to the findings from this incident with Detective Chatigny, the following additional actions were taken by town officials since the disposition agreement was released:

1.) We have accepted the resignation of Detective Scott Chatigny.

2.) We completed an exhaustive internal investigation, questioning all current staff members appearing in the disposition report and providing additional training and/or discipline when necessary.

3.) We are requiring that all paid employees maintain an additional current ethics training on file. All staff members will be required to attend a state-run ethics commission training in March or retake the state ethics training online for municipal employees. This training must be dated Feb. 1, 2021 or later.

See STATEMENT, page 5

Residents voice concerns about proposed gas station

By Paula Ouimette
Staff writer

NORTH BROOKFIELD – On Wednesday, Feb. 17 the North Brookfield Planning Board heard the application for a convenience store/gas station at 192 and 206 North Main St., at a public hearing at the police station and via Zoom. The board voted 3-2 to close the hearing after hearing a presentation from the proponent and residents.

Jim Bernardino, principal engi-

neer of CMG Environmental Inc. is working with the applicant, CCS Realty LLC, who purchased the parcel in October of 2020. The parcel is .59 acres over two lots. Bernardino said it would be consolidated into one lot. The building is currently vacant, and the owner is seeking to raze it and build a new structure.

Bernardino said they are proposing an approximately 3,900-square-foot convenience store with 18 parking spaces. Twelve of those parking spaces

would be in front of the building, one being handicapped accessible. The other six parking spaces would be located at the fuel dispensers. Those dispensers will include three multi-product dispensers that provide regular unleaded, premium unleaded, as well as diesel. A diesel-only filling station will be located on either end of the multi-product dispensers.

The convenience store/gas station will have two access points on North Main Street, each 30

feet wide to allow for entry and exit. Bernardino said they relocated the enclosed dumpster area to the northern line of the property, away from the park. He said part of the dumpster enclosure will also house a small shed to store equipment. New sidewalks will be installed along the front of the property as well. Bernardino said in the proposal they have included two underground fuel storage tanks, which they will seek proper licensure for. The property will also have air tanks and a propane

dispensary cage. They have also added a proposed generator for the site in case they lose power. Bernardino said they will place strategic landscaping to hide the dumpster and generator and "create aesthetic" look.

Nonconforming parcels

The parcel has existing non-conformities, and the proposed building would also have them, but with some adjustments. Along

See NORTH BROOKFIELD, page 6

Free introduction to manufacturing offered

Unemployed due to COVID-19 targeted

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

COVID-19 has torn through the economy as companies had to dial back their services or products in the wake of the pandemic, change their business models and furlough or lay off employees left and right to make it. Others just shut down entirely. While some people have been able to find work, there are plenty of workers who haven't been able to, and the state wants to help.

For those who have lost their jobs due to COVID-19 and remain unemployed, the MassHire Career Centers in Holyoke and Springfield are offering free virtual manufacturing training classes. They will help participants learn about career manufacturing, basic manufacturing standards, manufacturing processes, basic blueprint reading, quality control processes and tips on teamwork. The career centers used to be known as the state's

One-Stop Shop for employment needs for those looking for work and employers.

Participants must have a high school diploma, Internet connectivity with streaming capability, be unemployed due to COVID-19 and have a device such as a laptop, desktop computer or tablet to access the internet. It is also compatible with cell phones. Instructor coaching is also provided.

"The last two governors have been very invested in what they can do to maintain or grow manufacturing as an industry in general," said MassHire Career Center Holyoke President and CEO David Gadaire said.

With COVID-19 translating to job losses for many, it was decided to target those who have lost their jobs as layoffs and business closures began last March as restaurants, gyms and other businesses were temporarily closed and then able to start up in reduced capacities, he said.

"We think many people wrongly have this picture of what manufacturing is all about, with idea that it's dirty," he said. "But many manufacturers have pristine processes,

Barre police help with Coats for Vets



Turley Publications Courtesy Photo

Officer Gillespie went to Gillette Stadium and picked up several containers containing Coats for Vets. The containers were turned over to Barre Veterans Agent Anthony Musnicki. Shown from left is Officer Patric Gillespie, Deputy Chief James Sabourin and Anthony (Tony) Musnicki, all three are Veterans. Officer Gillespie is also in the Army Reserves.

Study committee reports regionalizing progress

By Paula Ouimette
Staff writer

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Selectman Chairman Dale Kiley called on North Brookfield Public Schools Superintendent Richard Lind and School Committee Chair Maria Tucker to make a presentation on the status of the school regionalization study during a selectmen's meeting Tuesday, Feb. 16.

The study, which is funded by a grant from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, seeks to answer two questions. One being "should North Brookfield join a regional school district?" and "if the answer is yes, should North Brookfield join Quabbin Regional, Quaboag Regional, or Spencer-East Brookfield Regional?"

Lind said that the committee is made up of 17 members, from parents in the district to teachers to community members, as well as School Committee members, a selectman representative and the Finance Committee. The Study Committee has met over a dozen times in the past year and made great progress in completing the first phase of the study. Lind said the first phase was about gathering data in

their own district as well as the districts they might potentially join. He said during this phase they determined they would not be considering Spencer-East Brookfield School District as a potential candidate, leaving the Quaboag and Quabbin districts to look at.

The Study Committee compiled several questions to ask the other school districts. Lind said they already spoke with Quaboag Regional School District Superintendent Dr. Brett Kustigian and they would be talking with Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent Dr. Sheila Muir in the upcoming week. Lind and Tucker said they were very close to making a recommendation and planned to have it to selectmen within a month or two. Lind said they will release the report for residents to look over prior to the Town Meeting in May.

Kiley said he heard in a news report that the towns of Warren and West Warren were looking to leave the Quaboag District and join the Ware Public Schools, leaving only the town of West Brookfield remaining. Kiley said the West Brookfield Board of Selectmen sent his board

See STUDY, page 5



See MASSHIRE, page 5

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News of the Towns



Round Town

Ellenor Downer
413-967-3505

Library to hold winter reading program

The Woods Memorial Library will host a winter reading program. People may register at barrelibrary.beanstack.org. They have challenges for children, teens and adults, with prizes for all ages. Children will track how many minutes are spent reading, while adults and teens track by the number of books read. There are multiple challenges for chances to win extra tickets toward the prize drawings, and new challenges will be added each week. Children win a free book for signing up that can be picked up in the lobby during outdoor hours. Winter Reading runs from now until Saturday, April 3 - prizes will be drawn at noon on April 3.

Drive-thru dinner

The Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St., will host a drive-thru chicken parmigina dinner on Saturday, Feb. 27 with pick-up time from 5-6 p.m. The meal also includes antipasto salad and dessert. Adults are \$12 and children under 12 are \$5. For reservations, people may call Lisa Holloway at 978-355-0140.

Quabbin Savings Card

The Barre Library Association is selling the Quabbin Savings card in their lobby during outdoor service hours. Cards are \$10 each and all proceeds benefit the library. The cards offer various discounts at 15 local businesses and are good throughout the year. People will get a ticket when they purchase a Quabbin Savings Card for a chance to win a basket featuring items from each of the participating businesses. People may pay with cash or make checks payable to Barre Library Association.

Vaccine clinic information

Residents of Barre, who qualify for Phase 1 or Phase 2, step 1 (75+ years of age), may email the boardofhealth@townofbarre.com with the following information: name, address and date of birth.

If they meet the requirements a link will be emailed to them for registration. If people do not have email, they may call Eileen at the Barre Senior Center at 978-355-5004 or 978-355-2504 extension 117 and leave their name, address, date of birth and phone number. This COVID-19 vaccine clinic is for Barre residents only.

Pine Acres Family Camping donates to Wellington Foundation



Turley Publications Courtesy Photo

Pine Acres Family Camping presented a check in the amount of \$25,000 to The Karen Wellington Foundation in memory and honor of Tessa Wisniewski. Shown are Tessa's husband, Ben Wisniewski, and their two children, Abigail and Eli.

OAKHAM – Every season Pine Acres Family Camping Resort chooses a charity to raise funds for throughout it's camping season. In the past this family-owned campground has chosen to support local causes as well as charities chosen by their campers or employees.

This year the choice was the Karen Wellington Foundation. Not your typical fundraiser, it was held in memory and honor of Tessa (Packard) Wisniewski, who passed in December 2019 after fighting a courageous battle with Stage IV Metastatic Breast Cancer. Tessa was a wife, daughter, granddaughter, and sister of

the Packard Family, owners and operators of Pine Acres.

Campers and local business community opened their hearts and wallets in support of this cause. Together, just over \$25,000 was raised in support of the Karen Wellington Foundation. This foundation provides families with a mom undergoing breast cancer treatment the opportunity for special family time amidst an often grueling treatment regimen. Tessa was able to enjoy a final vacation with her family due to the generosity of the Karen Wellington Foundation, spending some much needed downtime having fun at Smuggler's Notch.

In addition, out of gratitude for this unexpected reprieve, Tessa (an Usborne Book Consultant), held a fundraiser just prior to her passing that resulted in hundreds of new books being donated to families receiving services from Karen Wellington.

By supporting this foundation, the Packard family hopes to continue providing more women and their families with much needed and restorative opportunities such as this.

For questions or information about donating, people may contact Randy Packard, President Pine Acres Family Camping Resort at 508-882-9509.

Hubbardston

Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com



Golden Age Club

The Hubbardston Golden Age Club will hold a business meeting Wednesday, March 17 at 1 p.m. Due to COVID-19, only the officers will be attending.

Transportation

MOC Transportation provides transportation for seniors to medical appointments, shopping and more. People should call 207-710-1777. If no one answers, they should leave a message, which includes time and location they need to be picked up and time and location of the appointment. The call will be returned within 24 hours excluding weekends.

Country Hen scholarship

The 2021 Country Hen Scholarship forms will be due May. 1. Hubbardston students are eligible to apply for the scholarship funded by Country Hen.

Senior center

The Hubbardston Senior Center will be closed until April. At that point, the Council on Aging will review how things are going with the virus and plan accordingly. A council member will be checking the phone lines two or three times a week. The director, Claudia Provencal will be checking emails and Facebook every day. The drive through food and eggs will still be in place on Thursday mornings. Masks will be in place properly and distancing will be followed.

Barre Dining Center

BARRE — Elder Services of Worcester Area Nutrition Program welcomes guests to dine at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road.

The following meals will be served for the week of March 1.

Meal sites are closed and there are only Meals on Wheels deliveries.

Volunteers are needed at the Barre dining site. Volunteers are needed for Meals on Wheels (mileage reimbursement) and in the kitchen. People should contact 978-355-5027.

MON. – Beef stew, rice, corn niblets, pineapple, whole wheat bread

TUES. – Buttermilk chicken, herbed potatoes, peas, peaches, marble rye bread

WED. – Baked potato with chili and cheese, broccoli, sour cream, chocolate mousse, pumpernickel bread

THURS. – Hot dog on bun, baked beans, mixed vegetables, fresh fruit, mustard

FRI. – Macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, green beans, cookies, Italian bread

*Diabetic friendly dessert

**Higher sodium entree

Meal includes milk and margarine. Menus are subject to change. All meals are served at about 11:45 a.m. each weekday. Reservations should be made the day before by calling 978-355-5027 before 10:30 a.m. The donation of \$2.50 per meal helps keep the program running.



La Cucina di Hampden House

1 Allen Street, Hampden, MA
413-566-8324
www.lacucinahampden.com
CURRENT HOURS: Mon-Thurs 3-8pm;
Sat 2-9pm; Sun 2-8pm
Lounge open & pizza available 7 days

Route 20 Bar & Grille

2341 Boston Road (The Wilbraham Shops)
Wilbraham, MA
413-279-2020
www.route20barandgrille.com
CURRENT HOURS: Lunch: Thurs-Sat starting at 11:30am; Dinner: Tues-Thurs 4-9pm;
Fri & Sat 4-10pm; Sunday 11:30am-7:00pm;
Sunday Brunch 11:30am-2:30pm

Donovan's Irish Pub

Eastfield Mall, 1655 Boston Road, Springfield, MA
413-543-0791
www.donovanspub.com
CURRENT HOURS: Thurs-Sat 11am-9pm;
Sun 9am-7pm; Sunday breakfast 9am - noon

Venice Pizza & Grill

2341 Boston Road, The Wilbraham Shops
Wilbraham, MA
413-540-8080
www.venicepizzagrill.com
OPEN: Tues-Thurs 10:45am-9:30pm
Fri & Sat 10:45am -10pm; Sun 11am-9pm
Closed Monday

Stage on Main offers virtual book readings

ORANGE - In Recognition of Black History Month, Stage on Main is hosting a free-to-attend virtual book reading of the works of prominent Civil Rights leader and Congressman John Lewis "Across That Bridge - A Vision for Change and the

Future of America."

The book reading consists of 5.5 hours of listening over four sessions and 30 minutes of wrap-up discussion during the final session. Sessions are: Friday, Feb. 26, noon-1:30 p.m., Friday, March 5, noon-1:30 p.m., Friday, March 12,

noon-1:30 p.m. and Friday, March 19, noon-1:30 p.m.

People can dial in to listen via free conference call 515-606-5127, access code 146699#. No RSVP needed, just dial in to join the call. This program is free and all are welcome.

Show off East Quabbin Land Trust photos in contest

HARDWICK – The East Quabbin Land Trust will be holding a photo contest from Feb. 1 to June 1, giving people a chance to capture a little of the natural beauty of the East Quabbin region.

Photos will be presented at a curated outdoor show on June 20. Prizes will include EQLT swag, a gift card to a local business and of course, bragging rights.

All photos must be taken at an EQLT preserve and photos with watermarks will not be accepted. There is no limit to the amount of submissions each person

can enter. Submissions may be entered until June 1. EQLT reserves the right to reject a submission for any reason.

To submit, send and email to Jess Cusworth at jcusworth@eqlt.org to request the Dropbox link, which does not require a Dropbox account

Those submitting should include their last name and the title of their photo in the file name, such as Cusworth_SunriseOnMandellHill.jpg. Then upload the photo through the Dropbox link. Email Jess with any questions.

Places to go...
Things to do...



SPECIALS

PLEASE ORDER BY NUMBER

#1 2 Large Cheese Pizzas
\$14.00

NO SUBSTITUTIONS, NOT TO BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFERS. TAKE OUT ONLY.

#2 2 Small Pizzas
With 2 Toppings Each
\$13.00

NO SUBSTITUTIONS, NOT TO BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFERS. TAKE OUT ONLY.

#3 2 Large 1 Topping Pizzas
& Free 2 Liter Soda
\$17.00

NO SUBSTITUTIONS, NOT TO BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFERS. TAKE OUT ONLY.

Family Style Dinners

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- Baked Cheese Ravioli
- Cheese Tortellini Parmesan
- Baked Penne Pasta

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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Note: Many meetings are closed to the public or will be held remotely.

BARRE

Cemetery Commission – Feb. 25 at 11 a.m.
QRSD School Committee – Feb. 25 at 6:30 p.m.
Board of Selectmen – March 1 at 6:30 p.m.
Board of Assessors – March 2 at 6 p.m.
Felton Field Commission – March 2 at 6:30 p.m.
Planning Board – March 2 at 7 p.m.
Council on Aging – March 3 at 1 p.m.
Barre Housing Authority – March 4 at 3 p.m.
Finance Committee – March 4 at 7 p.m.
Board of Health – March 8 at 5 p.m.
Water Commission – March 8 at 6:30 p.m.
DPW Commission – March 8 at 7 p.m.
Library Trustees – March 10 at 7 p.m.
Sewer Commission – March 18 at 7 p.m.
Election Day – April 5 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

HARDWICK

Personnel Committee – March 2 at 5:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission – March 3 and March 16 at 6:30 p.m.
Board of Health – March 4 at 6:30 p.m.
Paige Library Trustees – March 4 at 7 p.m.
Gilbertville-Wheelwright Sewer Commissioners – March 8 at 6 p.m.
Board of Selectmen – March 8 at 6:30 p.m.
Council on Aging – March 11 at 9:30 a.m.
Gilbertville Public Library – March 12 at 4 p.m.
Gilbertville Water District – March 16 at 5:30 p.m.
Recycling Commission – March 16 at 6:30 p.m.
Finance Committee – March 22 at 5:30 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Select Board – March 1, March 15 and March 29 at 6:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission – March 2 at 7 p.m.
Planning Board – March 4 at 6:30 p.m.
Historical Commission – March 6 at 10 a.m.
Council on Aging – March 12 at 10 a.m.
Town Center Committee – March 18 at 7 p.m.
Open Space Committee – March 30 at 7 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Planning Board – Feb. 25 at 7 p.m.
Conservation Commission – March 2 at 6:30 p.m.
Open Space & Recreation Committee – March 2 at 6:30 p.m.
Board of Health – March 4 and March 18 at 7 p.m.
Board of Assessors – March 5 at 10 a.m.
Council on Aging – March 10 at 10 a.m.
Nichewaug Inn and Academy Committee – March 8 at 6:30 p.m.
Council on Aging – March 10 at 10 a.m.
Petersham Historic District – March 18 at 7 p.m.

RUTLAND

Master Plan Steering Committee – Feb. 25 at 7 p.m.
Selectboard and Finance Committee Joint Budget Meeting – March 4 at 6 p.m.
Public Hearing Notice/Planning Board – March 9 at 6:50 p.m. and 7:05 p.m.

Postponements and cancellations due to the coronavirus pandemic

The Three County Fair, Northampton, closed its office for the winter season and instituted staff cuts and furloughs to help the 202-year-old organization survive the extended shutdown of the fairgrounds due to the COVID-19 health crisis. The cuts will affect each staff member, and includes a fourteen percent salary reduction for senior management and staggered furloughs for all employees. Furloughs could be extended if the fairgrounds are unable to host postponed 2020 events in the spring, which include over a dozen different horse shows from April through October, plus a variety of concerts and festivals. The Three County Fair entered 2020 on solid ground after completing 2019 as its most successful year since horse racing ended at the fairgrounds in 2005, thanks to a widely attended Labor Day weekend fair, and another full slate of horse shows and festivals. But with reoccurring operational expenses and more than one million dollars in lost 2020 event revenue, the fair will run out of reserves sooner rather than later. The fair received a Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Loan in mid-May, which has since been exhausted and forgiven by its lender and the SBA. For more information, people may visit www.3countyfair.com.



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Submissions are always welcome.
Send your stories and photos to edowner@turley.com

A book is always a good friend

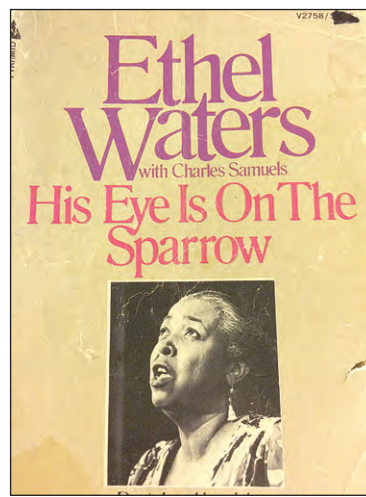
By Carole Garipey

What is always a good friend to have at your side -- during good weather or bad, any time or any place, in sickness or in health, whether young or old, rich or poor, in good times or bad?

My husband Gerry answered, “a dog.” I felt like telling him “a wife.” But no, the answer I’m thinking of is “a book.” And, I especially like a book where I can feel that I live for awhile in someone else’s skin, a book that puts me in someone else’s situation, a different place, maybe a different time, so I can truly feel what life was like for the person in the story.

I recently finished reading a memoir written in 1950 by Ethel Waters, a famous Black entertainer who lived from 1896 - 1977. She named her book “His Eye Is On The Sparrow” after her grandmother’s favorite song. Ethel was a “tell-it-as-it-is” person and the frank telling of her story made me feel all the bumps and potholes in her life’s road. A successful career does not guarantee an easy life.

Waters grew up in the slums of the Philadelphia area, not knowing where her next meal would come from or where she would find shelter. Survival meant learning to fight and to steal. Prostitution and alcoholism were part of her unstable environment. School attendance was erratic. The only positive influence in her life came from her grandmother, whom she called “Mom.” Mom was a live-in servant at a white man’s house which allowed her little time to spend with her



Turley Publications Submitted Photo

granddaughter, but she soaked up and held tight to Mom’s caring encouraging words that came when she was with her. Mom opened her eyes to see the wrongs around her and promoted the will for her to strive for something better.

Another positive influence came to Ethel when Mom enrolled her in a Catholic school. It was the first time someone besides Mom showed her kindness and patience. The nuns’ goodness led her to a deep Christian faith, which gave her inner support that enabled her to endure all the prejudice she had to face even after she became a famous singer -- not being able to stay in a white man’s hotel, eat in a white man’s restaurant, nor sing in a white man’s theater, always being a lower class citizen.

Waters’ frank story made me feel the horror and pain of her unjust treatment and I felt the effort it took for her to stay

strong and persevere. Also, I felt her love, forgiveness, and openness in being willing to establish a friendship with a white person when there was an opportunity ... and one was with a really great woman who loved people for who they were, not for their color or ethnicity - Eleanor Roosevelt.

When something bad happened in her life, Mom told her about a situation that was worse, and she would say, “It could be worse.” Mom knew it would be of no benefit for her to feel sorry for herself even though neither of them saw any hope for an end to racial prejudice.

I found “Stormy Weather” and “His Eye Is on the Sparrow” on the Internet and was moved listening to Ethel’s powerful singing.

I compare her situation now - the virus, the political division, and prejudicial issues. Today, a vaccine is developed, we see an effort to improve unity in government, and there is increased awareness of the injustices of prejudice. A beginning. That progress gives us hope for a better tomorrow.

A book can take us on a journey to a fun time, or a romantic time, or a time when things weren’t so good. In days like we’re having today, it’s good to be removed from current events for awhile. A journey with someone like Ethel Waters can make us realize that many people have faced difficult situations and maintained the strength of mind to make the best of it. A book is always a good friend and can put us anywhere we want to be.

Linda LeBlanc leads nature walks at NEECA

ATHOL – New England Equestrian Center of Athol announces a new nature component to Athol’s municipal 250-acre multi-purpose horse park.

Life-long nature person, Linda LeBlanc, is now writing articles and leading walks at the park, located at 802 New Sherborn Road. The articles can be found on www.neeca.org, and are cross posted on Athol Bird and Nature Club’s website.

With a degree in wildlife management from University of Maine Orono, LeBlanc taught primary grade children for years. They often called her “nature lady, bug lady or bird lady.” Retiring and moving to the woods of Royalston with her husband, Ernie, she spent 10 years as director of children’s services at Athol YMCA, developing experienced-based curriculum for Y programs.

LeBlanc loves NEECA, and finally owns a horse of her own, Vidalia. This winter they are often found walking together on NEECA trails.



Turley Publications Submitted Photo
Linda LeBlanc is shown enjoying a trail ride on her horse, Vidalia.

Two NEECA Nature Walks are scheduled already: a Spring Nature Walk on May 29 from 9 to 11 a.m. and Family Nature Walk on Sept. 25 from 10 a.m. to noon. Rain dates are the next day. Everyone is welcome, and there is no charge.

In other NEECA news, the March General Meeting of members and interested people, will be virtual this year. At this popular

social meeting, The New England Equestrian Land Management Conservation Corporation Board of Directors, which manages the park, will showcase the development progress made in 2020, and will outline what’s new for 2021.

The ZOOM invitation will be on the website, but this year participants will need to provide their own refreshments. All are welcome.

Reader survey

Turley Publications created a readership survey to ask folks about how they get their news

To participate, people may go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DBSJ69F>.

Corrections policy

The Barre Gazette will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2. To request a correction, send information to Editor Ellenor Downer at barre-news@turley.com or call 978-355-4000. Corrections may also be requested in writing at Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.



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Oakham

Ellenor Downer

edowner@turley.com



Church to resume in person services

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will resume in person services Sunday, March 7 at 10 a.m. People must wear masks and practice social distancing. Sunday, March 7 is communion and family Sunday. Sunday School will resume Sunday, March 14 at 10 a.m. and is held in Fellowship Hall.

Fobes Memorial Library

The Fobes Memorial Library needs small boxes, smaller than a shoebox, for a craft project. People may drop boxes off at the library during regular hours. Fobes Memorial Library hours are Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon.

Winter take-out lunch

The Oakham Council on Aging will hold its next winter take-out lunch Friday, March 5 between 11:45 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. the menu is homemade Italian Wedding Soup with a “lite” turkey or ham and cheese sandwich on a small roll with chips and dessert. The deadline to register is Monday, March 1. Seniors may call either Pauline at 508-882-5215 or Lucy at 508-882-3358. They should include their choice of sandwich.

DOR reminds taxpayers to file their returns electronically and early

BOSTON - The Massachusetts Department of Revenue reminds members of the public that the state began accepting electronically filed state income tax returns on Friday, Feb. 12, consistent with the IRS opening date for federal income tax. Massachusetts taxpayers can file both their state and federal personal income taxes through Thursday, April 15, 2021.

“As always, we encourage Massachusetts taxpayers to file their returns early and electronically in order to ensure the quickest refund processing times,” said DOR Commissioner Geoffrey E. Snyder. “During the 2019 tax year, approximately 90% of Massachusetts taxpayers filed their income taxes electronically. Electronic filing is also a responsible option given social distancing requirements and choosing direct deposit for a refund will help minimize potential paper delays.”

DOR is committed to providing Massachusetts taxpayers with safe and efficient filing options, as well as addressing filing questions and concerns. The Department’s website offers many taxpayer and preparer resources, including FAQs, free e-file options, and information on locating free tax help. Taxpayers who qualify for free tax preparation programs are encouraged to check directly with local VITA and TCE sites for remote working restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

DOR’s Where’s My Refund? application is available 24/7 and is the best resource to find out the status of your refund. Additionally, Massachusetts taxpayers can find more information, including forms, instructions, and tips, on DOR’s website. To avoid penalties, returns for Massachusetts taxpayers must be filed electronically or postmarked by midnight April 15.

DOR is also monitoring the latest developments and is following the guidelines issued by both the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. As a result, our counters are currently closed to the public. Taxpayers needing assistance can contact DOR by phone at 617-887-6367 or 800-392-6089.



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Opinion

Editorial

Bigger isn’t always better

A goal of the COVID vaccination program is to get as many people vaccinated as soon as possible.

In Massachusetts, the state decided having bigger clinics instead of many smaller, local clinics was the way to go.

Many town board of healths along with help from their council on aging, EMS, fire and police departments and many volunteers rallied to offer vaccination clinics. The state’s decision to distribute vaccine shots to residents at a few large clinics in the state took away local control.

It also eliminated the personal touch. The first general population eligible group, those ages 75 and older, welcomed the convenience of a local clinic, staffed by people they knew.

A Barre resident wrote a letter to the editor about her positive experience at a recent clinic held in Barre. She said, “Lots of people showed up for the COVID 19 vaccination clinic held at the Barre American Legion Post #2 on Wednesday, Feb. 17 and I really did not expect a pleasant experience based on the reports heard from other parts of the United States.”

This is in contrast to another Barre senior, who went to the state run large clinic at the Eastfield Mall, at the time the only large clinic in western Massachusetts. She posted on Facebook of waiting almost five hours in the bitter cold to get her shot. In this case, bigger was not better.

At a recent clinic in Oakham, seniors did not have to leave the comfort of their vehicles. Instead, they drove into one of the large bays at the Oakham Municipal Building, signed in, got their shot and waited the time frame after receiving the shot.

Local Board of Health and Council on Aging reached out to the eligible age group about the clinics they were holding. The seniors did not have to navigate the hard to use state website to sign up. Again, the smaller clinics offered a personal touch, which the larger clinics were not able to do.

For months, people were told to stay away from large groups and the state imposed regulations to prevent those gatherings. Now, instead of holding many, smaller clinics, the state herded one of the most vulnerable groups, seniors over 75, into large groups, caused them to stand in long lines in cold weather, just adding to their stress.

Mass population vaccination during a pandemic is a new territory. Hopefully, the process will improve with time and experience. Eliminating the local vaccination clinics is not a wise decision and will be reversed.

Guest column

Adventures of Gertrude the Cat

By Ruth Robinson

Dear Folks,

I don’t know quite where to start my story this week. So many different things have happened, but not worth talking about.

Missy had visitors, who brought her food this weekend and me treats. Missy’s littllest great-granddaughter thought it great fun to chase me and try to catch my tail. She has learned how to walk and chased me into the bedroom. I dusted under the bed and she was unable to get me, but discovered the open closet and went through to the other bedroom and started to giggle. Then she turned around and came back through. She did this several times and then went back with the rest of the family in the living room.

When, now I can settle down and have my afternoon nap upon Missy’s bed. I fell asleep thinking about my friend, Teddie, who died. We had the best times together. I was telling him all about my experience with Missy’s large mirror. I told him how I hissed at the cat I saw and batted it and the darn cat did the same to me. I told Teddie I finally realized the cat was me. I had never seen myself so it was a revelation. I noticed my tail was straight up with a little curl in the top.

Teddie said he had a similar experience with a mirror and found out his tail was long, fluffy and about four inches wide. He said he spends lots of time grooming himself daily and particularly that tail. He too hissed at the thing he saw and also batted it with no avail.

We laughed together at our memories. I sure do miss him to play with and get into daily mischief. Probably Missy is glad to have only one cat now to get after. Then, I rolled over and realized I had been dreaming again. I guess it must be old age or something.

Take care of yourselves this week folks,

Love,

Gertrude

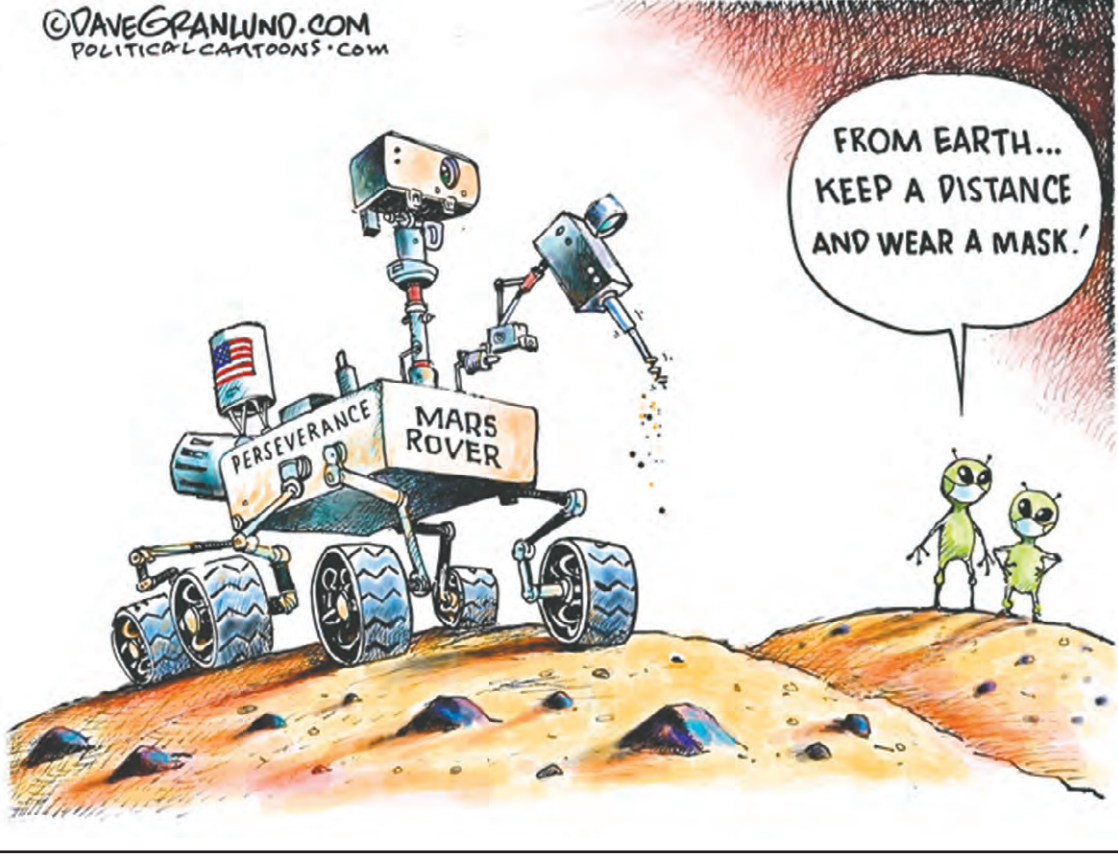


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In Past Pages

5 years ago (March 17, 2006)

The Quabbin girls robotics team left the qualifying competition in Rhode Island as the Tournament Champions and the recipients of the Excellence Award. Considered the highest award a team can receive, the Excellence Award indicates that the team has achieved excellence in all areas of robotics, including the judges interview, the team’s engineering notebook and the robot itself. As the winners of both of these awards, the Quabbin robotics team has qualified twice to compete at the U.S. Open VEX Robotics Championship. The all-girls team, known as #SquadGoals, will travel to Iowa this April to compete against 200 of the best robotics teams from across the world. For seniors Zoe Bates and Maura Shea, this will be their second appearance at the National Championships. Freshman Ellie Shea will be joining them for her first time and is “ecstatic to take part in this learning experience.”

Although it was 55 years ago, three Barre High basketball team members remember that night like it happened yesterday. Last Friday evening to the day that Barre High School defeated Hardwick High School for the Tri-State Championship, three members of the team got together at the Barre Mill Restaurant to recall that moment in history. The 1961 title was the third year that Barre High won that title, with 1951 and 1957 being the other years, making it the first school to win the Tri-State trophy three times. Rick Lamacchia, a sophomore point guard on the team, remembers how his team was struggling during the third quarter and was down by two points at the end of the third quarter. He got several points that kept the Barre High team alive. Teammate Francis Gromelski, senior center, said his most vivid memory of that night was of the gym in Turners Falls. All the stands were high above the court and it was like playing in a swimming pool. There was tremendous noise from the Barre crowd. He said half the town of Barre was there. He commented that the town closed down and the fan support was amazing. Michael Staiti, senior sharp shooting guard, seconded Fran’s impression of the gym and remembered coming out of the locker room to a roar. All had high praise for their coach, Ray Sullivan. He instilled team play and fairness. He had the team go to full court press and it worked. Lamacchia stated that to this day, whenever he eats orange slices, he thinks of hits coach. Sullivan always had orange slices for his players instead of water.

Elinor Allen, turned 99 in March 12. She came to Barre in 1942 to become the librarian of Barre’s Woods Memorial Library. She was at that time Elinor Howard. Soon she met her future husband, Robert H. Allen and they made their home on James Street where she lives with her daughter, Lucy. She has two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren by her son, Roger.

10 years ago (March 3, 2011)

The Oakham Board of Selectmen signed Certificates of Achievement for Nicholas and Timothy Mardirosian for making Eagle rank in Boy Scouting. The brothers selected

LOOK BACK White Spruce Farm - 2011



Turley Publications File Photo
Shown from left are Sydney Wine, Kiley Bulger, “Misty,” Cassidy Bulger and Adeline Reynolds, and in front, Little Greta, future competitor.

the restoring of the town pound on Coldbrook Road and the remodeling of a room at the Oakham Senior Center as their Eagle projects.

Brent Hopkins began acting when he was in seventh grade. “My sister had the lead in a school play and they needed boys to dance. I wasn’t a dancer, but I was a body, I was a boy and I got the part, but that didn’t ignite any desire to act,” he said. His desire was ignited at the age of 13, when he played his first “big” role in “Jenny Kissed Me.” “A couple of members of the theater started a 4-H drama group, which produced the play. I played a priest and it was really fun. It was an enormous part. It was a comedy and I got some laughs, so that’s where it all started for me.” Hopkins has been in the theater since the age of three. It was in fact, his great-grandfather, George Vivian that founded the Barre Players in 1921 and held the productions of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” “Romeo and Juliet” and others before moving on to other things. Then, in 1956, Hopkins parents, Victoria and Russell brought the Barre Players to life once again. “My mother performed, my father was the back stage crew,” Hopkins said. “I would be spending nights sleeping in the threaten, which at that time was in the basement of the Barre Congregational Church. I got to see rehearsals occasionally and began helping out backstage when I was about eight.” Hopkins grew up in Barre and attended Quabbin Regional High School and later graduated from Vassar College.

Air Force Airman Patrick M. Russ graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. Russ earned distinction as an honor graduate. He is the grandson of Harold Dorsey of East Hill Road, Oakham and son of Gail Russ of Phillips, Maine. The airman graduated in 2005 from Quabbin Regional High School,

Barre and received a bachelor’s degree in 2009 from Daniel Webster College, Nashua, NH.

25 years ago (Feb. 29, 1996)

Joseph Rogowski of School Street, a 22-year veteran of the Barre Fire Department, was unanimously appointed fire chief at a selectmen’s meeting Monday night. He previously was Deputy Chief and held the acting chief position twice. Rogowski was the only applicant for the job, and received strong support from firefighters. Also, Hubbardston Fire Fief Roger Knipe sent a letter to the board recommending Rogowski for the post.

Several 4-H members from Barre and Hardwick attended the state 4-H horse bowls and hippology finals at the 4-H Center in Ashland on Feb. 24. Julie Barnes from Barre and Tim Bancroft from Hardwick participated in the senior horse bowls. Horse bowl participants answer a round of questions where they buzz in to answer the question. For every correct answer they receive a point; a wrong answer results in a point being deducted from their score. The top four scorers represent Massachusetts at the National 4-H Horse Bowls and Hippology teams in Kentucky in the fall. Tim Bancroft will represent Massachusetts in the nationals. Rachael Bancroft of Hardwick is an alternate for the state senior hippology team, which will also compete in the nationals. Frank Bassett and Kara Bryant of Barre were members of the junior hippology team. Their team came in third and competed against nine counties. Kelly McDonald and Julie Barnes of Barre were members of the junior horse bowl team.

The Royal Rangers, Outpost 120, which meet at the New Life Assembly of God Church located in South Barre, have recently participated in the district-wide Annual Snow Day, held at the First Assembly of God Church in Worcester. This group of boys, including Matthew and Timothy Dailey from Barre, Keith and Nicholas Barry, Anthony Flores and Eric Hatwood from Ware,

See PAST PAGES, page 5

Letter to Editor

Reader offers kudos to COVID 19 vaccination clinic

Lots of people showed up for the COVID 19 vaccination clinic held at the Barre American Legion Post #2 on Wednesday, Feb. 17 and I really did not expect a pleasant experience based on the reports heard from other parts of the United States.

Quite the opposite however, I don’t know who, one person or a committee, was in charge of setting it up but, it was very well done, the timing smooth, plenty of workers, well executed and all in all a pleasant experience.

It was nice to see so many helpers from Barre Fire, Rescue, Police, etc. plus other workers from surrounding towns.

It was a job well done.

Stella Crawford
Barre

Column

Milk jug seed starting part 2

This week we will delve into part 2 of the great milk jug seed starting experiment, posed by Barbara who wrote in last week wondering if I have had any success with this trendy technique.

Here are the nuts and bolts! Start with clean gallon containers, the see-through kind that water or milk come in. About four inches up, just below the handle, safely cut around the jug, leaving an inch or so on either side of the handle as a “hinge.”

You should be able to bend the top back and forth. Make a number of drainage holes in the bottom; three or four per quadrant. There is a lot of advice out there on how to do that, from drilling holes, to twisting an exacto knife around and around and even using a hot tool to melt a hole in the plastic (really!). I generally like to make holes in reused plastic containers by banging a large nail through the bottom into a piece of scrap lumber placed underneath.

Once the drainage holes are made, fill the bottom of the jug with moist seed starting mix. ‘Coast of Maine’ has recently become my favorite after a few years of trying out new brands. With the soil in place, sow your seeds. If the seeds are tiny or even relatively tiny, don’t cover them with soil, simply space them out evenly on top and press into the surface.

You may wonder how to deal with tiny seed. I place it in a folded index card and gently tap the card so that the seeds fly out. If you can handle the seed easily, do cover with only a small amount soil, say an eighth of an inch or so and firm down. How many seeds to sow is a tricky question. If you want to keep the plants in the jug until they go in the garden, then hope for four plants, maybe six per jug at the most, figuring how big they will be at transplant stage. For tricky germinators, perhaps double or triple the amount of seed you

See GARDEN, page 5

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BARRE GAZETTE

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Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

This will be the last column I write for February of this year. May spring not be far behind.

It is getting harder to find things to keep me busy while being quarantined. I did work on a couple of new table runners in which you place five-inch blocks so that you have a border that is pointed. I made two of two colors and another one of two other colors.

I am still working on some watercolor designs and took out several of my watercolor books to read some instructions. I mainly like to do flowers, but I should try some other subjects.

I was pleasantly surprised to receive a nice package of health supplies in the mail from my health provider. It contained a thermometer, two face masks, a face shield, a bottle of sanitizer, four hand wipes and a germ key. I had to read what a germ key was, but then attached it to my keychain on my pocketbook. It is used to open doors, press buttons on ATM's etc. so you don't have to touch them with your hands, all to do with the virus.

Hopefully they had a good turnout at the vaccine clinic in various towns. We get our second shot on March 4. We understand you still will have to practice distancing and wearing a mask.

Here is a recipe that my dear friend, Cyndee Johnson gave me, which she got from Pickety Place. It is very good and an easy recipe to make. Ken mentioned he likes it toasted.

GLAZED LEMON BREAD

1-cup sugar
6 tablespoons melted butter

BARRE, continued from page 1

agreed to notify the Department of Fish and Game they were not interested in selling this land at the time.

Town accountant

Selectmen discussed the need for increased hours with the town accountant. She requested an increase of hours for her assistant and herself. Claire Adomaitis of the finance committee responded through chat that the finance committee voted to increase the additional hours for the town accountant department and a raise for the town accountant for the FY22 budget. The finance committee also recommended the town accountant keep the software it was using.

Selectmen discussed the soft-

MASSHIRE, continued from page 1

for which mathematics is needed and their manufacturing is really a science.

He said starting wages are good and it's possible to make a sustainable wage and move through company ranks to get ahead.

"The classes are a guide, to counsel them as to what to expect in manufacturing, the kind of math needed and so they candidly will know what's going on," he said. "It's also designed to get people off unemployment and help them move into what could be a good career."

The classes are self-paced and offer tips on who work as a team member, how to address concerns that come up on the manufacturing floor and problem resolution, Gadaire said.

Businessman Joseph Peters, a member of MassHire Hampden

STATEMENT, continued from page 1

4.) We have added a clause to the town's Conflict of Interest Policy that prohibits employees from contracting with each other without disclosing the contract

PAST PAGES, continued from page 4

along with their commanders and pastor, were undefeated in the tug-of-war competition. Anthony held first place in the ping-pong competition.

38 years ago (March 3, 1983)

Mrs. Annie B. Hartly of Phillipston Road celebrated her 90th birthday on Feb. 26. Friends and relatives from Athol, Orange, Holden, Templeton, Gill, Grafton and Barre, as well as from Barrington and Bartlett, New

1-teaspoon salt
1/2-cup milk
1 1/2 cup flour
1-teaspoon baking powder
Rind of one lemon grated
2 eggs
1/2 cup chopped pecans, optional

Cream sugar and butter, add salt, lemon rind and eggs, one at a time beating after each. Mix the flour and baking powder and add alternately with the milk. Fold in the nuts.

Bake in a greased loaf pan at 350 degrees one hour or more. While bread is still hot in the pan, spoon over loaf a mixture of juice of one lemon and 1/3-cup sugar. Let the bread cool in the pan.

This and That

Hopefully, the snow will melt so we can burn some of the brush piles we have here. We have only been able to burn one pile before the snows came and they have not melted off the piles since. There will be lots of cleaning up of the yard once the snow is gone. Living in the woods is not as easy as I thought it would be. There is always something to clean up. The acorns and pinecones and the pine brushes are always falling.

Ken did get some seeds for the vegetable garden, so I guess he plans to have one. Last thing I knew he said he thought he would buy his vegetables this coming year.

It is always fun to watch what plants come up in the spring. You have some surprises and some that do not come through the ground. Because of the good snow cover, we should not loose too much. It is almost time to collect a few branches

of the forsythia and flowering quince to force inside.

There has been talk on television people are starting to think about tapping maple trees for sap. We used to do that at our old homestead, but we don't have maple trees here. Mainly we have oak and pine trees.

I often think of the time when Chester Mowrey was cooking down the sap on his mother's kitchen stove and his mother threw it away thinking it was water. We used to build a fire outside and cook it down each evening before going to bed. Sometimes the girls liked to toast marshmallows at the same time.

Those were the days when we made our own fun. We didn't have computers and iPads to sit in front of. Don't you think the youth of today are missing out on a lot of fun?

Recently a group of my friends were talking about the time Hubbardston Highway Department closed down Brigham Street, previously called Depot Road, in the winter for sliding down the road. We also used to slide down Hallock's Hill to Brigham Pond. The boys used to shovel off the pond for ice-skating and we used to toast marshmallows, have cocoa and hot-dogs on a bonfire. Bill Hubbard had a toboggan and we all climbed on it and rode down the road. Ronnie Lang used to pull us back up with his vehicle.

Speaking of skating, I recently heard they tried to make skating rink at the Slade Recreation Field. I guess the boys don't want to shovel off Brigham Pond any more.

Keep warm and keep wearing your masks spring is coming.

Sizer said the state was moving vaccine doses to the larger state sites and the roll out of vaccines was not fair to smaller communities. The town received 200 Pfizer doses from Rutland for a clinic at American Legion Post 2 on Feb. 17.

Other business

Selectmen approved the use of town property for Christmas in Barre pending approval regarding public safety. They also received a request from the Barre Lions Club for a car show on the common. Selectman Urban said due to liability, the Lions Club should provide insurance for the event. They tabled the decision until provided proof of insurance. They approved a common victualer license for Twitch Nutrition, located on Exchange Street.

specifically. That exposure differs from when he was young, when many people knew people in manufacturing even if their immediate family wasn't involved, he said. The classes provide that exposure if they've never had it in school or in the workforce," he said.

"He's lived manufacturing and breathed it his whole life, and in my mind that makes his opinion about it very credible," said Gadaire of Peters' opinion that it gives potential job seekers a way into manufacturing.

For more information or to register for the classes contact Kate Smith at Masshire Holyoke at 413-322-7162 or Ksmith@masshire-holyoke.org or Yvette Jackson at Masshire Springfield at 413-858-2827 or yjackson@masshire-springfield.org.

The funding for the classes was provided by the state Office of Housing and Economic Development

5.) We have posted signs in all town offices highlighting the State Ethics Commission reporting hotline. Employees are encouraged to file complaints with the ethics commission whenever they suspect municipal fraud, waste or abuse.

Gerald and Carole Gariepy, James Street, Barre, has enlisted into the navy's highly competitive boost program. Upon successful completion of boot camp, Cort will report to the broadened opportunity for officer selection training school in San Diego, California. He will attend nine months of prep school studying courses in math, the sciences and English. All classes are taught by civilian instructors from local California colleges. After successful completion of Boost, Cort will receive a Navy ROTC scholarship worth \$40,000 or an appointment to the Naval Academy.

Cortland A. Gariepy, the son of

Plans underway for 4-H programs and events at Eastern States Exposition

REGION - Planning is underway by Eastern States Exposition and the New England 4-H community to create programming and opportunities for the youth organization to grow and thrive while keeping participants safe under COVID-19 protocols.

Gene Cassidy, President and CEO of Eastern States Exposition said, "During this unique time in our history, ESE is doing all it can to support and provide an appropriate venue for

youth and agriculture, the core of our mission."

A variety of programs and competitions for youth are being considered including the introduction of a summer 4-H competitive event. Events will be carefully planned for participants and animals to be able to properly social distance in the barns and areas on the grounds.

The group strives to explore innovative programming, to support youth and to educate them on career opportunities and

workforce development.

ESE Trustee and committee member Nick Barishian said, "We have joined forces with all six New England 4-H Programs, 4-H Staff, 4-H Volunteers, and 4-H Youth from across New England to reimagine the New England 4-H Program to take its current best-in-class event, and bring it to an even better place, truly living the 4-H motto to 'Make the Best Better.'"

More information will be available as plans develop.

STUDY , continued from page 1

an email, which Kiley forwarded to Lind. Lind said he received the email but had not heard about Warren and West Warren wanting to leave the district.

Tucker said even if the Study Committee makes a recommendation to regionalize, it does not mean the regionalization is imminent. She said it is important to look at all the data and facts before making a decision. Lind emphasized that it is a lengthy process and they would have many stops along the way if they deter-

mined it was no longer in the town's best interest to regionalize. Lind said that regionalization does not save money, although it does open up more opportunities for the students.

Selectmen Vice Chairman Jason Petraitis, who is also a member of the Regionalization Study Committee, asked Lind and Tucker if they were looking into gathering "exit surveys" from the parents of North Brookfield students who were opting to school choice out of the district. Petraitis said he knows the idea of a survey has come up in the past, but he was not sure if it was ever done. Lind said he has no

record that it was done, but he will look into creating one to offer the parents of those students. Tucker said they will determine the best way to reach out to parents and agreed it would be good to collect that data.

Lind wanted to publicly thank the members of the Study Committee for not only taking their roles seriously, but for their time and dedication.

Kiley said he looks forward to the Study Committee's recommendation and an answer to the age-old question of whether or not North Brookfield should regionalize.

GARDEN, continued from page 4

sow versus how many you desire. If germination is great, you can always transplant some out. Close the container and seal it with duct tape. Be sure to label the jug with the plant name via a paint pen, really the only writing utensil that won't smear, fade or wash away when exposed to the elements.

Place the jugs in full exposure outdoors and with the cap off, so that heat can escape and small amounts of moisture can penetrate. When the temperature outdoors heats up past 60 degrees, be sure to take the duct tape off and vent your seedlings. Check often and water as needed. The pros recommend to cover with a blanket if

frost threatens or even move heat lovers inside on cold nights. To prevent tip-over by four-legged friends or playful kids, pros also suggest putting the jugs in trays or bins.

As you can see, this method is not maintenance-free, but certainly worthy of a try especially for gardeners who are short on indoor space or in the mood to get their hands dirty earlier in the season than normal. January and February is the perfect time to start seeds that need a cold treatment. Look for key terms on the seed packet, such as "stratification needed," "sow in the fall," or other terms.

You can begin to sow cold hardy annuals in March- think chard, spinach, kale, snapdragons, bachelor button and the like,

while April should be reserved for warmth-lovers like pepper, tomato, basil, zinnias and marigolds, paying special attention to frost predictions and bringing these plants in as needed.

Well Barbara, thank you for the great topic! I promise to give this method a try and will report back my successes and failures.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



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Where is this?



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

This week’s mystery photo is from Hubbardston. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, March 1. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in next week’s edition. Bill Bowles, Dick Clark, Stephen Craven, Evelyn Luukko and Bruce Towner correctly identified the photo. Last week’s photo was the former Hardwick Ambulance building located on Lower Road in the Gilbertville section of Hardwick. It currently is owned by Hardwick Farmers Cooperative Exchange.

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NORTH BROOKFIELD, continued from page 1

the northern property line, the required yard distance for residential is 40 feet. The existing distance is 27 feet and with the proposed building it would be reduced to 20 feet. In the rear of the property, the existing distance is 2.3 feet, and they will be increasing it to 5.6 feet. The front yard setback has a required distance of 50 feet, the existing structure has a distance of 29.4 feet and that would be increased to 32.4 feet. The 32.4-foot setback is measured from the edge of the fuel dispenser canopy, not the building.

Bernardino said the other non-conformity they are addressing is parking stall measurements. Required stall size is nine feet by 20 foot, and they are seeking a nine foot by 18 foot size. Bernardino said 18 to 20-foot-long stalls are considered “industry standard.” He said they are also proposing two, 30-foot wide driveways, instead of the 24-foot maximum allowed to accommodate large delivery trucks.

Bernardino said they will be using the available utilities, including sewer, water, gas, electric and telecommunications. He said they have an erosion control plan during the construction phase. After preliminary discussion with the Planning Board, they added wall-mounted light fixtures to the building design to light the walkway. Bernardino shared the amended architectural design of the building. They moved the gable to the center and added four dormers. The design features a fieldstone base. The shingles on the roof of the fuel dispenser canopy will match the roof of the building.

Sign issues

Planning Board member Susan Lyons said she questioned if it was necessary to have the sign on the canopy as well as the standing sign. Bernardino said that was understandable, but that the canopy signs were “more visual on the approach than the lower level free-standing signs.” The other board members agreed that the sign on the 74-foot long canopy was very large.

The board members also voiced concerns about the colors of the brand logo on the canopy. Concerns were raised about whether the free-standing sign would distract from the town sign. Bernardino said their sign will be set further back into the site.

Residents’ concerns

Betsy Cuddy, abutter to the north of the property, said she had concerns about the lights being on all night. She said her property is a business by day and a residence by night. She said having the lights and signs on all night could “be bothersome from a residential standpoint.” Bernardino said the site operational hours would be 5 a.m. to 11 p.m., and that lights would be reduced to a security minimum once employees leave the site around 11:30 p.m.

A resident that neighbors the proposed site, read a list of concerns including parking issues, traffic hazards, idling vehicles and further congestion in an already busy section of the downtown area. She questioned how this would work with the downtown project. She is worried about the reduction in Main Street’s limited parking with the downtown revitalization, and especially about delivery trucks double parking. The resident felt that since CCS Realty LLC is

asking for a special permit to build on an undersized lot near abutting a residential area and a town park, they should not be allowed a waiver of setback requirements.

“Is this the vision that the downtown revitalization had in mind when they were doing this? They spent years studying, researching what the town wanted and the town needed and yet a gas station was never on that list...there are much more better-suited areas in town,” she said.

Bernardino said that this proposed site is a relocation of the convenience store across the street from this resident’s house. He said being an off-street site, this will redirect some of the traffic and parking issues she is experiencing now. Bernardino said he felt their design would enhance the non-conforming setbacks.

Another resident commented that some of their neighboring towns also did not have a gas station, and it would increase traffic into North Brookfield. She said she was drawn to this town for its rural, small town appeal and that she was “extremely disappointed in this proposal.” This resident also felt that some members of the Planning Board were already on board with this proposed business before hearing the public’s opinions on the matter.

A resident who had issues connecting to the hearing via Zoom, came to the police station to voice he and his wife’s concerns. The resident said if they make changes right now with zoning, it could negatively impact the changes for the downtown revitalization. He felt they should wait for input from the programs the town is working on for funding.

One resident said he “would

love to see a gas station in town” but felt the proposed location would be detrimental to the future of the downtown area. He felt that the steady flow of in and out traffic would pose a safety hazard for pedestrians. He also voiced concern about the business being so close to an already congested intersection.

Concerns were also aired about the need for a recycling container in addition to the dumpster, flow of traffic in and out of the property and odors. A resident also commented about the lack of definition in the town by-law for what defines a “drive-through” business. Planning Board member Michelle Petraitis said they will be addressing the definition in the by-law at a public hearing in March.

Resident Eva Brown said they will be having experts from the state coming to North Brookfield to see what can be done to improve the town. She said she would appreciate having a gas station in town but feels they should hold off until the experts could give their advice.

Lyons said that the Planning Board never forms an opinion without listening to everyone. She said they value the input of all parties. Chris Algoo, the co-owner of CCS Realty LLC, said he has been in town for some time, and his parents founded Algoo’s Convenience on North Main Street.

He said their current store is only about 600 square feet and just too small to meet the needs of residents. Algoo said they put a lot of thought into this plan, to make it look nice. He said “we are a small business...we run a family-run business. We’ve been here for 20 years.” He thanked everyone for their input and criticisms.

This paper publishes birth, engagement, wedding and significant anniversary announcements free of charge.

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Panthers capture ‘pod’ playoff final

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE—Just like in the semifinal game against Oakmont 24 hours earlier, the Quabbin girls varsity basketball team built a double-digit lead at the end of the first quarter in the Central Mass. Pod 6 finals.

The top-seeded Panthers, who led third-seeded Leominster, 14-2, after the first eight minutes of the contest, managed to hang on to the lead the rest of the way for a 47-40 home victory, last Thursday night.

“We usually started the first quarter either very slowly or incredibly fast during the regular season,” said

Quabbin head coach Evan Barringer. “I thought it was very important for us to get off to a quick start in the finals against Leominster. They upset second-seeded Fitchburg on their homecourt in the semifinal game and they just kept battling against us. It was just a great high school basketball game.”

The Panthers, who finished the season with an 11-1 record, defeated fourth-seeded Oakmont 42-23 in the semifinal game. They wound up winning their final twelve games of the season, including the two playoff games.

“Even though we won the championship game, everyone on our

team was emotional afterwards because our season was over,” Barringer said. “All of the players worked so hard and it was a very special season for us.”

In the first quarter of the two Pod playoff games, the Panthers outscored their opponents 30-3.

“Our defense was just incredible in both of the playoff games,” Barringer added. “We really didn’t know how to play man-to-man defense at the beginning of the season, but the girls slowly kept improving in each game.”

Quabbin senior Julia Hamel posted a double-double in her final high school basketball game. She scored

a game-high 18 points and pulled down 12 rebounds. She also was credited with 6 assists.

“During the second half of the Leominster game, especially during the fourth quarter, there was nine high school players on the court and one college player,” Barringer said. “Julia played very well in the championship game.”

The only other senior listed on the Quabbin varsity roster is Kacie McCreadie.

“Kacie was the most improved player in our program and she started every game this season,” Barringer said. “She and Julia were our co-captains. They were our lead-

ers, and they helped the younger players on the varsity team.”

The Panthers other three starters in the finals were junior Ashley Leighton (9 points), sophomore Olivia Rose, and junior Jordyn Gillon (9 points).

After falling behind 2-0, Hamel gave her team a 6-2 lead by burying a pair of 3-points from almost the exact same spot on the right side of the court.

“Julia has been an unselfish player all season long,” Barringer said. “She began the game by hitting two very big three-point shots for us.”

The score remained the same for the next five minutes, as both teams

had trouble putting the ball into the basket.

Freshman Meaghan Doyle, who also reached double digits in the finals for the home team with 11 points, ended the dry spell offensively with a 3-pointer from the left side.

With 42 seconds left in the opening quarter, Gillon extended the Panthers lead to 12-2 after sinking another long bomb from the top of the key. She made a total of three 3-pointers in the game.

“We went 4-for-7 from three-point land in the first quarter against Leominster,” Barringer said. “It was

See PANTHERS, page 8

High school football set to start next week

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – While the vaccination effort is ongoing, there is still a need to make modifications to high school sports and football will be no different.

High school football games are finally set to commence next month and those that are able to watch games will not see a major difference in how the games are played other than what happens behind the scenes and on the sidelines.

Like all sports currently, football players will be required to wear face coverings. In the last couple of months, variants of COVID-19 coming from the United Kingdom and South Africa have resulted in a more contagious mutations of the virus. As a result, people have been advised to wear multiple or multi-layer face coverings now. The MIAA is not allowing gaiter face coverings, but are not currently requiring the multi-layer coverings. Football players wear full helmets with some also wearing splash guards. The guards are being encouraged as they provide an additional layer of protection.

Larger teams like Longmeadow, Central, and Holyoke will have limits to the number of players they can bring to the sideline. A maximum of just 45 players will be allowed to dress for games and be on the

See FOOTBALL, page 8

Pioneers drop pair to Wolves



Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Stephanie Koslik makes an off-balance shot.

SPRINGFIELD – When the Pathfinder High School girls basketball team was finally able to take the court, they definitely showed signs of rust. The girls struggled in a pair of games Feb. 12 and 16 against Hampden Charter, losing 44-25 and 44-19. The Pioneers struggled to move the ball around the court and could not find its shooting. Pathfinder still has a pair of games against Ludlow before ending its shortened season.

Allyson Dube tries to dribble toward the sideline.



Stephanie Koslik gets a shot off ahead of coverage.



Allyson Dube extends on a shot.

Volleyball hall of fame nominees announced

HOLYOKE – The list of 25 nominees for the International Volleyball Hall of Fame 2021 Induction has been announced and the Fan Vote presented by Mizuno is now officially open through Feb. 28.

Fans can vote daily for as many nominees as they feel are deserving of Induction. The top 5 nominees selected by the public will comprise a “fans’ ballot” that will be tallied along with the official selection committee ballots to pick the Class of 2021 inductees. “These 25 nominees represent 11 different countries and some of the biggest names in volleyball from the past two decades and beyond,” said George Mulry, Executive Director of the International Volleyball Hall of Fame. “Having to skip the 2020 class of Inductees because of COVID has created a bit of a backlog that’s resulted in perhaps the strongest list of nominees top to bottom we’ve ever had. I think it’s going to be really hard for people to narrow down their Fan Vote selections but it will also make this year’s Induction that much more special for the selected class.” The new class of Inductees will be announced in March and the 2021 Induction Celebration is scheduled

See HALL OF FAME, page 8

Outlaw open entry lists loading up for Icebreaker, Thompson 300

THOMPSON, Conn. — The Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park oval is shaping up as the place to watch the biggest stars of Tour-Type Modified Racing in 2021. Entry lists for both the Icebreaker 125 on April 10/11 and the return of the Thompson 300 on October 9/10 are already loaded with local, regional, and even national open-wheel racing headliners.

As the first and last events of the season at the historic Connecticut track, both the Icebreaker and the Thompson 300 are expected to be the year’s two greatest shows. The early entries back up these expectations with a mix of touring series champions, track champions, and big-time winners in the Modified ranks. With so many top drivers ready for action, the buzz that has surrounded the events for months will only get louder.

Leading the roll call is six-time NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Doug Coby of Milford, CT. The modern Modified legend has filed entries for both the \$10,000-to-win Icebreaker 125 and the \$20,000-to-win Thompson 300. Coby will compete at the Icebreaker in the #20CT Modified Rick Czarnicki. For the Thompson 300, he will be behind the wheel of



Bobby Santos will look to compete in the upcoming Icebreaker race.

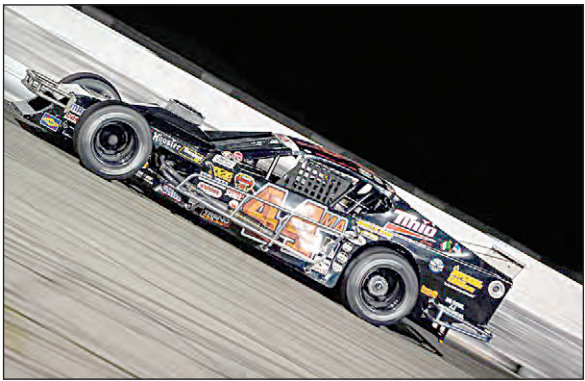
his own Doug Coby Racing #10CT car that debuted in 2020.

Coby is one of multiple drivers planning to do double-duty with the Icebreaker and the NASCAR Modified Tour event at Virginia’s Martinsville Speedway on April 8. Another is multi-time NASCAR Modified and Modified Racing Series (MRS) winner Eric Goodale of Riverhead, NY. Goodale, who is currently competing in the World Series of Asphalt Stock Car Racing at Florida’s New Smyrna Speedway, is looking forward to keeping the Thompson Modified tradition alive.

“I love racing at Thompson,” Goodale said. “It’s one of my

favorite tracks. I’m excited to do it. The thought to go into a Modified season and not have a Modified race at Thompson would be a bit disturbing. This is the stuff I grew up on, and I’m finally getting to live it everyday. I’ll be leaving Martinsville, heading home, switching the car over and heading right to Thompson for a double-header weekend.”

Several other notable names have already joined Coby in committing early to both the Icebreaker 125 and Thompson 300. Multi-time Thompson Speedway champion and former NASCAR Weekly Racing Series national champion Keith Rocco of Berlin, CT will



Submitted photos
Tom Morris racing is back this season.

be gunning for the two five-figure first prizes in his familiar #57CT. So will former Modified Racing Series (MRS) and International Supermodified Association (ISMA) champion Jonathan McKennedy of Chelmsford, MA. Others who beat the crowd with their entries include 2011 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Ron Silk, two-time MRS champion Chris Pasteryak, and recent MRS winner Ronnie Williams.

The Icebreaker entry list alone, meanwhile, is nearing two dozen names with two months still to go before the event. One driver that everyone will have their eyes on is Franklin, MA’s Bobby Santos

III. Santos has become the dean of big-money open-wheel events in recent years, winning everything from the Musket 250 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway to the Little 500 at Indiana’s Anderson Speedway. At the Icebreaker 125, Santos will be in the cockpit of the #44MA Tinio Racing car he has piloted to 11 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour victories.

Other high-profile names preparing for the Icebreaker 125 are MRS champion Anthony Nocella, recent World Series Modified Open winner Mike Christopher Jr., many-time Modified winner Richard Savary, and former Pro-4 Modified standout Derek Robbie. While their Thompson plans remain to be seen beyond the Icebreaker, a good start could certainly spur them to attend more of the planned big-money events.

The Icebreaker 125 is the opener of the new Thompson Outlaw Open Modified Series for 2021. The six-race series includes the annual Icebreaker, the Thompson 300 as part of the World Series of Speedway Racing, and four Wednesday night events held between June and September. The

See RACING, page 8

MIAA official recognized for leadership by NFHS

FRANKLIN – The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) selected eight leaders in state high school associations to receive an NFHS Citation. This award honors individuals who have made contributions to the NFHS, state high school associations, athletic director and coaching professions, the officiating avocation and fine arts/performing arts programs. The NFHS Citation is one of the most prestigious achievements in high school athletics and performing arts.

The Massachusetts Inter-scholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) is extremely proud to announce the NFHS 2021 Section 1 Citation recipient:

Sherry Bryant, associate executive director of the MIAA.

During her 30-year career at the Associations, Bryant has served as Financial Controller, Director of Human Resources, Technology Advancement Leader, and Liaison to a number of sport Committees including, Field Hockey, Basketball, Gymnastics, Skiing, Tennis, Softball, and co-liaison for Rugby. Bryant has also provided leadership through her service to the MIAA Tournament Management

See MIAA, page 9

[illegible]

colleagues, and company. It's a bright spot in my day."

This spring's classes, for which registration is now open, will let adult learners brush up on their conversational French or Spanish, learn about scientific principles that affect our daily lives, get tips on how to de-clutter their life or learn how to play the ukulele. See the complete course listing and register online at marketplace.fitchburgstate.edu/alfa. Most courses are just \$40 (and free for students over age 90).

ALFA is sponsored by the School of Graduate, Online, and Continuing Education at Fitchburg State University in collaboration with volunteer members of the community. We offer non-credit daytime classes, trips, special events, and a free speaker series. ALFA students are encouraged to volunteer and participate in program leadership and development, as well as social and recreational activities. A limited number of scholarships are available.

This spring's varied offerings include crosswords for beginners, Native American basketry, an introduction to yoga, a guide to winter botany, and the history of folk music, along with classes on creative writing, the art and culture of Islam, ancient lore in modern times, and the cinema of Oscar-winning director Bong-Joon Ho, among many other topics. There will also be a free "Food for Thought" lecture on March 30 about abolitionism, emancipation and Civil War memory in Central Massachusetts in the mid-19th and early 20th centuries.

For the full list of programs and information about the instructors and schedule, people may visit fitchburgstate.edu/alfa.

Also, ALFA is always on the lookout for new instructors and new subject matter to share with its students. Anyone with a specialty that they think others would be interested in should contact the program directors at alfa@fitchburgstate.edu for details about becoming an ALFA instructor. Also, direct any questions to the ALFA office at 978-665-3706, or email at alfa@fitchburgstate.edu.

Worcester State announces dean's list

WORCESTER – Worcester State University announces its dean's list for fall 2020.

Local students making dean's list are: Angela Lund and Zabdriel Y. Nieves, both of Barre; Sarah R. Flynn and Hannah E. Regan, both of Hardwick; Hannah R. Allain, Joshua M. Enright, Alec C. Greenawalt and Emily Ikonen, all of Hubbardston; Rebecca A. Chilton and Benjamin R. Morin, both of New Braintree; Brodin P. Coughlin, Janet M. Fortune, Breana L. Joubert, Kari M. Mickunas, Madison J. Parker, Megan M. Quigley, Patrick P. Waugh and Tory E. Zalauskas, all of North Brookfield; Caitlin D. Dellert, and Avery R. Oldakowski, both of Oakham; Riley O. Brooks and Isabella M. Quattrucci, both of Petersham and Nicholas I. Behonick, Alexavier J. Bender, Abigail C. Charlonne, Laura N. Cruz, Chandler K. Day, Cameron E. Derrick, Eva R. DiBara, Jared K. Dunn, Kayla R. Gorham, Joshua T. Judge, Destiny A. Keough, Kyle A. Lindberg, Miguel A. Lopez, Aimee M. Lougie, Grace E. Miele, Thomas N. Moore, Noelle T. Olivar, Jordyn N. Petit, Meaghan L. Riedle, Christine M. Riggieri, Matthew R. Rollins, Kaylie J. Senecal, Savannah J. Stowe, Griffin E. Weber, Alexandra Wilson, Olivia C. Wittkop and Nicolle M. Zenaro, all of Rutland.

Dean's list honors are awarded to matriculated undergraduate students who have earned a 3.5 GPA or higher.

Full-time students must have earned a minimum of 12 credits and part-time students must have earned a minimum of six credits.

Deven Thomas makes dean's list at UMF

FARMINGTON, MAINE – The University of Maine at Farmington announces its dean's list for the fall 2020 semester.

Deven Thomas of Barre made honors. UMF maintains a dean's list each semester for those students completing a minimum of 12 credits in courses producing quality points. Students whose grade point average for the semester is equal to or greater than

3.8 are listed with high honors. Students whose grade point average for the semester is less than 3.8 but equal to or greater than 3.5 are listed with honors. Any incompletes must be satisfactorily completed before the student is honored with dean's list status.

Morgan Morris makes dean's list at Stonehill College

EASTON – Morgan Morris of Rutland and a member of the Class of 2023, has been named to the fall 2020 dean's list at Stonehill College.

To qualify for the dean's list, students must have a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better and must have completed successfully all courses for which they were registered.

for Saturday, Oct. 23 and will be live streamed for anyone that cannot travel to Holyoke. Induction Celebration tickets will go on sale when the new class is announced.

The nominees are: Taismary Agüero, Dr. Rolf Andresen, Manuela Benelli, Gianfranco Briani, Julius Brink and Jonas Santos, Giovane Gaudio, Linda Hanley, Barbara Jelic-Ruzic, Pieter Joon, Siegfried Kohler, Peter Lange, Andre Meyer, Samuele Papi, Carmelo Pittera, Bernardo Rezende, Todd Rogers, Yumilka Ruiz, Ricardo Santos, Clay Stanley, Sergey Tetyukhin, Logan Tom, Fernanda Venturini, and Elaine Youngs.

Wednesday events will pay a minimum of \$5,000 to win; meanwhile, the Icebreaker and Thompson 300 have guaranteed top prizes of \$10,000 and \$20,000, respectively. All told, more than \$250,000 in purse money will be posted at these six races.

The Icebreaker 125 and Thompson 300 entry forms, along with the rules for the Outlaw Open Modified Series, have been posted at www.act-tour.com/outlaw-open-modifieds(link is external). The early-entry deadlines are March 15 for the Icebreaker 125 and

sidelines. In many high school games, players are injured and unable to play, often wear their jerseys to the field and are on the sidelines to cheer on teammates. Those players will not be allowed in the Fall 2 season in order to limit the number of people on the sidelines of games. Only 45 players and a maximum of six coaches will be allowed on the sidelines along with other game personnel, like officials, the chain gang, and athletic trainers.

During games, when the action gets intense, players and coaches will often crowd the sideline. This will not be allowed and will be strictly enforced. Referees are being instructed to assess penalties if warnings to be at least two yards away from the sideline are not adhered to.

There will be more time to account for the need for players to have water breaks and catch their breath. Timeouts are extended to two minutes long. Intermissions between quarters will also be longer. Water breaks will also be instituted around the six-minute mark of each quarter, though referees can declare a water break around that time during a change of possession.

A schedule for the football season has yet to be released, though it has already been determined there will be no tournament. The same has applied to the fall and winter seasons.

A few athletic directors have already said traditional Friday night football is unlikely to occur during the Fall 2 season due to the colder temperatures. Right now, nighttime temperatures are consistently in the 30's, unlike the normal fall season where it is still much warmer until November.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday afternoon games are likely in order for players to be able to play some of the games in the sun and slightly warmer temperatures. The Fall 2 season will be continuing into April.

Church News

Local pastors offer sermons

When God says ‘Yes’

Last week we introduced the following principle: “God answers every prayer with no, yes or not yet.” Having addressed the negative response of the Lord in a previous edition, let us now turn our attention to His divine “yes.”

1) A Sampling of Scripture
Scripture continually presents God as the One who both hears and answers prayer. Note the following excerpts:

Matthew 7:7-8

7 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”

1 Peter 3:12a

12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer . . .

1 John 5:14-15

14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that what we have asked of him.

2) A Scriptural Illustration

Perhaps my favorite illustration of the “yes” of God is that of the biblical figure, Hannah. Her story is most worthy of careful review and reflection! Let us journey through said story, as it is recorded in the Book of 1 Samuel. Hannah is introduced to us in the following manner:

1 Samuel 1:1-2

There was a certain man from Ramathaim, a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. 2 He had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none.

We come to understand from these remarks that Hannah was one of two wives of Elkanah. Note that polygamy was quite common in antiquity. We also come to understand that Hannah had no children (being barren as we shall soon discover). Words cannot adequately describe the angst she must have felt being childless in a generation wherein the infertile were deemed outcast and cursed by God. Her anguish and sense of isolation were amplified by both the passage of time and the provocation of the callous, Peninnah:

1 Samuel 1:3-8

3 Year after year this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the Lord Almighty at Shiloh, where Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the Lord. 4 Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. 5 But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her and the Lord had closed her womb. 6 Because the Lord had closed Hannah’s womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. 7 This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the Lord, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat. 8 Her husband Elkanah would say to her, “Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don’t you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don’t I mean more to you than ten sons?”

Though Hannah had an obviously adoring husband, she could not dismiss the longing of her heart. She wanted a child of her own, so she called upon God in prayer. One can only imagine how many times this poor woman had prayed so, but things were about to change for her in a big way. Note the following selection:

1 Samuel 1:9-18

9 Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the

priest was sitting on his chair by the doorpost of the Lord’s house. 10 In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly. 11 And she made a vow, saying, “Lord Almighty, if you will only look on your servant’s misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head.”

12 As she kept on praying to the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. 13 Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk 14 and said to her, “How long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine.”

15 “Not so, my lord,” Hannah replied, “I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the Lord. 16 Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief.”

17 Eli answered, “Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him.”

18 She said, “May your servant find favor in your eyes.” Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast.

It is at this point in the story of her life that God chose to undertake for Hannah, having heard her request:

1 Samuel 1:19-20

19 Early the next morning they arose and worshiped before the Lord and then went back to their home at Ramah. Elkanah made love to his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. 20 So in the course of time Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel [Samuel sounds like the Hebrew for heard by God] saying, “Because I asked the Lord for him.”

3) Summations and Applications

What we have just read is one of the most vivid accounts of God’s intervention in the whole of Scripture. Consider how this divine “yes” must have changed the life of Hannah-Hannah who had spent so many years without child and tormented by a bitter rival Her life became a testimony of what the Lord can do on the behalf of those who look to Him.

Not only did this divine “yes” change the life of Hannah, but it changed the trajectory of the nation of Israel. You see, God did something incredible here-in (as you come to read the rest of the story). Not only did He respond affirmatively to the plea of Hannah, but in her child, He would provide a mighty prophet and leader for His people. Her son, Samuel, would go on to become a preeminent figure in biblical history. He would change the course of the nation, serve the Lord mightily, and play a key role in the crowning of the greatest of all the kings of Israel-king David...

Yet it all began with God saying “yes” to the prayer of His daughter, Hannah.

Perhaps you are calling upon the Lord for some personal need. Perhaps, like Hannah, you have prayed time and again (seemingly without result). I would call you to seek Him afresh and anew! Certainly, the Lord does say “no” at times for your benefit. However, there are moments when He also says “yes” for your good and the good of those around you. If God could answer and work through the prayer of Hannah to achieve eternal result, why not your prayer? Why not now? After all, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Heb. 13:8).

Hebrews 4:16

16 Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time

of need.

Thank you for taking the time to read this publication. Feel free to check us out online at www.NewLifeBarre.org or visit us in person each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. (COVID-19 protocols are presented on the aforementioned website). We hope to see you soon!

Pastor James Foley

*New Life Assembly of God
South Barre*

First Sunday of Lent

“The Spirit sent Him out into the desert!”

Our services can be found on our website at www.barrechurch.com and Facebook page.

Scripture Reading: Mark 1 verses 9-15

I. Introduction:

The Webster dictionary describes the term wilderness as “a region uncultivated and uninhabited by human beings” and also, an “area essentially undisturbed by human . . .” For most of us it would be a huge challenge to spend more than a few days in a wilderness area, because we have grown accustomed to the comforts of our homes, and perhaps the only time we would enjoy being in areas of simplicity and isolation with little or no amenities, is when we go camping in the woods, or escaping into the mountains during our vacations. Life in the wilderness or desert would therefore be an unfamiliar experience for many of us. The pandemic certainly has thrown us into our own spaces of isolation, where we for months now, have not enjoyed the company of our loved ones outside of our own homes freely.

Our text refers to a wilderness and desert area where Jesus would have been sent to be isolated for forty days and nights. Let us explore that further.

II. Background in the Gospels

Mark’s account of the Temptation of Jesus in the wilderness is quite different from that of Matthew and Luke. The latter two gospels describe how Jesus was tempted by Satan to turn stone into bread, to jump from the pinnacle of the temple, brought to a high mountain where He was shown all the Kingdoms of the world, which Satan would give to Him if He were to bow down to him and worship him. These temptations refer to the practices of the wonder workers during the time of Jesus, such as Simon Magus, who had the ability to turn stones into bread, and could fly. In Mark we only read a summary of Jesus being sent into the desert for 40 days and being tempted by Satan. These are quite different descriptions, but with one purpose in mind, to describe what Jesus went through during His time of isolation and prayer. We read how H refused those requests from Satan, by saying, “Away from me, Satan, for it is written: Worship

the Lord your God and serve Him only.” According to J.J Porter in his book, “The Illustrated Guide to the Bible” the Messiah “will not use His powers for self-preservation or world dominion. His work can only be accomplished through the Passion, death and Resurrection.”

He was committed to His call and purpose, even though it brought Him much suffering.

One important point to make, is the fact that Jesus’s temptation was preceded by His baptism by John the Baptist, where He was filled with the Spirit of God, so He would withstand the forces of evil and would be protected by and tended by God’s angels, while those temptations were going on. It is about the struggle between the forces of good and evil.

III. He was sent into the wilderness for forty days and forty nights.

Jesus was in the desert, or wilderness for forty days and forty nights, where He fasted and spent time with God. He was filled with the Spirit of God to withstand the dangers of wilderness life, as well as the temptations by Satan. In Mark we read that He was with the wild animals, or wild beasts, meaning it was not just barren, but rough and dangerous.

The wilderness of Judea where Jesus was driven to, lies between the Dead Sea and the Hebron Mountains, west of the Jordan River, where John the Baptist was living and preaching, according to Matthew 3v 5-6, and where he was performing His baptisms. The Judean Wilderness is known for its rugged landscape of mountain cliffs and hills, which provided a refuge and hiding place for those seeking solitude and isolation.

Jesus’ forty days and nights remind us of the sojourn that Moses took on Mount Sinai when he received the tablets of the Law. The story of the Israelites and their travels through the desert after going through the Red Sea, talks about their suffering from hunger, because there was no food, from thirst, because there was no water. The wilderness was also known as “the wilderness of the wanderings.” Their time in the wilderness was a time of testing according to Deuteronomy 8 v 2. Jesus’ responses to Satan were all spoken by Moses in Deuteronomy. His wilderness experience therefore is consistent with the wilderness experiences of Moses and Elijah, even though the Judean wilderness we read, does have rivers flowing through it, and therefore Jesus could have drunk some water. It is not clear according to the Gospels, whether He did during His fasting.

Jesus was in isolation to be connected to God in prayer, and to strengthen His soul for what is to come. Jesus’ presence in the wilderness reveals the work of God in and through Him, and His struggle against the forces of darkness, where His obedience to God is tested in the face of adversity. He was hungry and could have used His powers to turn those stones into bread, but He did not, because He did not need bread to have life. His Sonship would be proven by withstanding the temptations and staying strong in God and proclaiming God on High as the only God He would worship and rely on. He was sent into the wilderness in preparation for His life and ministry, the gathering of His disciples, His teachings, and the miracles He performed, and revealing to the world His identity as the Son of God. All this would prepare Him for His suffering and death on the cross later on.

IV. Conclusion:

Lent is therefore a time of spiritual isolation, where the church in the world creates spaces to listen to the voice of God. During this period of forty days, and nights, we too have the opportunity to find our own wilderness spaces, spaces of isolation, not the kind that the pandemic has put us in, but the spaces we create for ourselves where we spend time with God, in a disciplined way, allowing the Spirit of God to fill us, nourish us, strengthen us for our own journeys. It is for many a time to give up something, or change a behavior perhaps, but it is important to understand that it is a time of spiritual discipline, a humbling experience where we are spiritually isolated, spending time with God, studying God’s word, listening to God’s voice, and withstanding the forces of darkness around us. It is a time to develop our faith and trust in God, so we can carry on with hope for the future.

May this period of Lent be a blessing for all of us.
Amen.
Pastor Margaret Keyser
Barre Congregational Church

Obituaries

Richard William Bechan, 89

OAKHAM – Richard William Bechan, 89, died peacefully at Rose Monahan Hospice on Feb. 21, 2021. He leaves his wife of 56 years Barbara (Bucinskas) Bechan, his daughters Ann of Wells, Maine, Cathleen of Stamford, Connecticut and Betsy Stern, along with her husband Simon, of Louisville, Kentucky and his grandchildren Maggie and Will Stern. He also leaves his sisters Mildred Jacques, Phyllis Phoenix and Valena Fontaine and sisters-in-law Ruth Dowgielewicz (Francis) and Christine Parmentier (Christopher); nieces Lynda Simeone, Ann Salminen, Beth Sisco, Brenda Phoenix, Michele Riley, Diane Dowgielewicz and Sarah Parmentier; nephews Ed Salminen, Al and Brian Jacques, Bob Phoenix, Bob Fontaine, Joe Dowgielewicz and Nick Parmentier; many cousins and his very generous neighbors of Bechan Road and East Hill.

He was predeceased by his parents William and Anna (Stehlik) Bechan, sister Frances Salminen, brothers-in-law, William Salminen, Al Jacques, Bob Phoenix and Al Fontaine and nephews Rick Salminen and Bill Phoenix.

Dick was born at his family homestead on Bechan Road in 1932. He attended Barre High School and UMass Amherst. He worked briefly in home building before becoming a master mechanic for road construction projects in New England and New York. He was a proud member of Local 98, International Union of Operating Engineers. Dick was a member of St. Joseph’s Parish in North Brookfield, serving as lector,

Christian Doctrine teacher and choir member. He served his town as a volunteer firefighter and police officer, chairman of the finance committee, building inspector and school committee building member.

Not only was Oakham the focus of his civic duty but also of many fun times with friends. Dick enjoyed tending his vegetable garden and caring for his woodlands and farm animals. He was an avid tennis player and skier, serving on the ski patrol and enjoying trips to mountains throughout New England with friends and family. He loved cooking, making many Czech specialties, hearty entrees and his famous oatmeal cookies. He and Barbara were accomplished and enthusiastic dancers, making many friends and memories at Sovittaja Park, SAC Park and other gathering spots. They also traveled frequently to Louisville to spend time with their grandchildren.

Funeral services will be private, with a celebration of life to be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, take a moment to carry out a good deed for a neighbor or stranger as Dick so often did, or send a donation to the Oakham Council on Aging, 2 Coldbrook Road, Unit 6, Oakham, MA 01068. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home, 44 Gilbert St., North Brookfield, MA.

DEATH NOTICE

Bechan, Richard William
Died: Feb. 21, 2021
Services will be private

Tri-Parish Community Church news

NEW BRAINTREE – For those of you who could not make it to the Tri-Parish Community Church service at the New Braintree Congregational Church on Sunday, Feb. 21, guest pastor Rev. Kathleen Fitzgibbons brought an enjoyable and thought-provoking sermon on Jesus’ childhood. Also, her children’s story, “Puppies,” went over well with both the young and the “young at heart.” It was also great to have the piano alive with church music by Holly Bartelmann. At the Zoom Feb. 18 church meeting it was suggested that if COVID-19 ever allows, it would be nice to start a children’s choir. Anyone interested should call the church office at 508-867-3306.

Besides preaching, Rev. Fitzgibbons is assisting the Tri-Parish on possibly finding a part-time pastor – anyone interested!

Another possible Zoom church meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on March 4. Anyone wishing to participate should send their contact information to triparishcc@gmail.com.

The Feb. 28, 10 a.m. Tri-Parish Community Church service will be led by Deacon Ginny Rich at the New Braintree congregational Church. Masks and social distancing required. Everyone is invited. Pastor Kathleen Fitzgibbons will speak the next Sunday, March 7 – same place, same time.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

Barre Gazette

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.



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Richard Mansfield
Director



BBB Award Recipient



Ricky Mansfield
Director



MIAA, continued from page 7

Committee, MIAA Blue Ribbon Committee on Gender Equity, the MIAA Covid-19 Task Force, and MIAA Women and Girls Leadership initiatives. At the national level, she has served two terms on the NFHS Field Hockey Committee most recently as chair,

is a leader in the NFHS/USA Field Hockey Advocacy Group, and has been appointed to the NFHS Strategic Planning Committee.

MIAA member, Field Hockey Committee Chair, Coach and retired Rockport High School Athletic Director Mary Ryan stated, “Sherry is hands-down the ultimate professional and so deserving of the NFHS Section 1

Citation. Her commitment, dedication and tireless work ethic on the local, state and national levels on behalf of our student-athletes, athletic directors and coaches is beyond reproach. I have the utmost respect and admiration for all that she does in the quest of Educational Athletics. I have been so fortunate to call her my colleague and friend.”

According to MIAA Executive Director Bill Gaine, “Sherry Bryant’s 30-year service to the MIAA membership as well as being a key Senior Executive teammate has been outstanding. I am very pleased her contributions to our NFHS Section 1 colleagues and NFHS Association have been recognized and will be celebrated.”

BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for the Barre Gazette, please email edowner@turley.com.

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Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Monday, Feb. 15
5:41 p.m. Falls Grandview Terrace – Ambulance Signed Refusal
6:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Vehicle Towed
Summons: Thomas L. Wilkes, 31, Gilbertville
Uninsured Motor Vehicle; Stop/Yield, Fail To; Registration Not in Possession

Tuesday, Feb. 16
10 a.m. Suspicious Package/Letter Worcester Road – Report Filed
9:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South Barre Road – Citation Issued

Wednesday, Feb. 17
11:38 a.m. Sick/Unknown Circle Road – Ambulance Signed Refusal
4:18 p.m. Power Lines/Wires Down Elm Street North – Removed Hazard
5:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Worcester Road – Citation Issued

Thursday, Feb. 18
8:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/Fire South Street – Criminal Complaint
Summons: Luis D. Geraldo Ramirez, 23, New Britain, CT
Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Marked Lanes Violation; Speeding Rate of Speed Greater Than

was Reasonable and Proper c90 §17
12:55 p.m. Fraud/Forgery Valley Road – Information Given
5:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Worcester Road – Citation Issued
6:46 p.m. Assault and Battery Clem Court – Investigated

Friday, Feb. 19
4:55 a.m. Sick/Unknown Main Street – Transported to Hospital
5:28 p.m. Sick/Unknown Skelly Road – Referred to Other Agency
8:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/Fire Almon Thrasher Road – No Transport Required

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, Feb. 14
2:04 p.m. Arrest Root Road – Arrest(s) Made
Arrest: Fred R. Bard, 47, Gardner Warrant
Summons: Fred R. Bard, 47, Gardner
License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With
4:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Gardner Road – Criminal Complaint
Summons: Summier L. Brooks, 22, Fitchburg
Uninsured Motor Vehicle; Registration Revoked, Operate Motor Vehicle With
4:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision Hit and Run Main Street – Criminal Complaint
Summons: Judith A. Lacroiox, 63,

Hubbardston
Leave Scene of Property Damage; Inspection/Sticker, No
6:42 p.m. Erratic Operator Hale Road – Report Filed

Tuesday, Feb. 16
9:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/Fire Old Princeton Road – Report Filed
1:24 p.m. Identity Theft High Bridge Road – Officer Advised

Thursday, Feb. 18
12:19 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Criminal Complaint
Summons: David R. Crino, 25, Hubbardston
License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With
11:58 a.m. Fraud/Forgery Halfrey

Road – Officer Spoke to Party
3:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Gardner Road – Criminal Complaint
Summons: Rey L. Morales, 25, Winchendon
Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle

Friday, Feb. 19
8:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident Gardner Road – Vehicle Removed
11:43 a.m. Property Damage Barre Road – Officer Advised
8:50 a.m. Motor Vehicle Disabled Williamsville Road – Vehicle Towed
Summons: Rimiroy Lopez-Gualpa, 46, Springfield
Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle

Oakham Police Log

Sunday, Feb. 14
8:59 a.m. Suspicious Activity Old Turnpike Road – Officer Spoke to Party

Monday, Feb. 15
7:49 a.m. Abdominal/Back Pain North Brookfield Road – Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Feb. 16
8:27 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/Fire Worcester Road – Transported to Hospital

9:43 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle North Brookfield Road – Officer Spoke to Party
5:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Worcester Road – Citation Issued

8:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop North Brookfield Road – Citation Issued

Sunday, Feb. 21
12:51 a.m. Welfare Check Tomlinson Road – Officer Spoke to Party

Hardwick Police Log

For the week of Feb. 8-22, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department conducted 211 building/property checks, 15 emergency 911 calls, 20 radar assignments, 44 directed/area patrols, 3 motor vehicle accidents, 1 identity theft, 1 trespass, 2 scams, 1 safety hazard, 3 complaints, 4 animal calls, 19 traffic controls and 22 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Feb. 8
4:30 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Lower Road – Citation Issued

Tuesday, Feb. 9
7:32 a.m. Initiated – Suspicious Activity Mellon Road – Could Not Locate
9:49 a.m. 911 Misdiagonal Lower Road – Spoken To
9:59 a.m. Phone – Snow Ban/Parking Violation Main Street – Spoken To
3:26 p.m. Radio – Motor Vehicle Accident Lower Road – Services Rendered

Wednesday, Feb. 10
1:50 p.m. Phone – Trespass Patril Hollow Road – Unknown Outcome
2:05 p.m. 911 – Motor Vehicle Accident Turkey Street – Investigated

Thursday, Feb. 11
1:10 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency

Church Lane – Transported to Hospital
9:53 p.m. Phone – Fire Alarm Old Petersham Road – Services Rendered

Friday, Feb. 12
8:23 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Main Street – Transported to Hospital

Saturday, Feb. 13
11:55 a.m. 911 – Disturbance Upper Church Street – Spoken To
4:15 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Road – Written Warning
9:27 p.m. Phone – Fire Alarm Prospect Street – Services Rendered

Sunday, Feb. 14
12:01 p.m. 911 – Medial Emergency Delargy Road – Transported to Hospital
5:37 p.m. Phone – Medical Alarm Hardwick Road – Transported to Hospital
6:38 p.m. 911 – Misdiagonal Chagnon Road – Services Rendered

Monday, Feb. 15
8:55 p.m. 911 – Misdiagonal Hardwick Road – Investigated

Tuesday, Feb. 16
1:21 a.m. Phone – Complaint Hardwick Road – Dispatch Handled

Wednesday, Feb. 17
4:59 a.m. 911 – Motor Vehicle Accident Lower Road – Transported

to Hospital
9:01 a.m. Phone – Safety Hazard Petersham Road – Dispatch Handled
5:25 p.m. 911 – Scam Highland Terrace – Officer Handled

Thursday, Feb. 18
7:06 a.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Lower Road – Written Warning
11:26 a.m. 911 – Welfare Check Church Lane – Spoken To
5:44 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Road – Citation Issued

Friday, Feb. 19
11:06 a.m. Initiated – Identity Theft Sessions Road – Officer Handled
1:22 p.m. Phone – Scam Delargy Road – Spoken To
4:20 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Lower Road – Citation Issued
5:06 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Arrest(s) Made

Saturday, Feb. 20
12:58 p.m. 911 – Complaint Church Lane – Spoken To
1:46 p.m. 911 – Complaint Church Lane – Dispatch Handled

Sunday, Feb. 21
9:34 a.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Road – Written Warning
9:54 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Turkey Street – Transported to Hospital

New Braintree Police Log

For the week of Feb. 8-22, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department conducted 47 building/property checks, 19 radar assignments, 6 motor vehicle stops, 60 directed/area patrols, 9 traffic controls, 5 motor vehicle accidents, 3 animal calls and 6 emergency 911 calls in the town of New Braintree.

Wednesday, Feb. 10
5 a.m. 911 – Motor Vehicle Accident Barre Road – Transported to Hospital

7:42 a.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Accident Barre Road – Report Taken
9:58 a.m. 911 – Motor Vehicle Accident Gilbertville Road – Vehicle Towed

Friday, Feb. 12
7:39 a.m. Phone – Notification Bernard Whitney Road – Arrest(s) Made

Sunday, Feb. 14
12:37 a.m. 911 – Motor Vehicle Accident Utley Road – Services

Rendered

Tuesday, Feb. 16
3:33 p.m. 911 – Assist Citizen Harrington Road – Services Rendered

Wednesday, Feb. 17
12:44 p.m. 911 – Misdiagonal Utley Road – Officer Handled

Saturday, Feb. 20
3:20 p.m. 911 – Motor Vehicle Accident Barre Road – Transported to Hospital

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Rutland Police Log

Sunday, Feb. 14
7:30 a.m. Prowler/Trespasser Hillside Road – Officer Spoke to Party
11:32 a.m. Sick/Unknown Maple Avenue – Transported to Hospital
10:26 p.m. Sick/Unknown Central Tree Road – Public Assist

Monday, Feb. 15
6:44 a.m. Falls Barre Paxton Road – Transported to Hospital
7:49 a.m. Abdominal/Back Pain North Brookfield Road – Transported to Hospital
10:52 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Fisherman's Road – Vehicle Towed
7:07 p.m. Safety Concern Pommogussett Road – Officer Spoke to Party

Tuesday, Feb. 16
6:39 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/Fire Pommogussett Road – Ambulance Signed Refusal
7:50 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/Fire East County Road – Vehicle Towed
7:52 a.m. Falls Dakota Trail Referred to Other Agency
8:27 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/Fire Worcester Road – Transported to Hospital

7:10 p.m. Assist Other Police Department Hubbardston – Arrest(s) Made

Wednesday, Feb. 17
8:12 a.m. Fire Alarm Activation Maple Avenue – Investigated
10:18 a.m. Sick/Unknown Main Street – Transported to Hospital
3:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Paxton Road – Vehicle Towed
Summons: Ethan E. Simonovitch, 23, Spencer
License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With; Number Plate Violation to Conceal ID; Unregistered Motor Vehicle

Thursday, Feb. 18
3:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Arrest(s) Made
Arrest: Heather M. Jenkins, 30, Rutland
Warrant
3:49 p.m. Fraud/Forgery Pommogussett Road – Information Given
7:18 p.m. Falls Main Street – Ambulance Signed Refusal

Friday, Feb. 19
1:06 p.m. Suspicious Activity Peters Avenue – Officer Spoke to Party

3:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pleasantdale Road – Citation Issued
10:48 p.m. Missing Person Johnson Way – Located/Found

Saturday, Feb. 20
10:21 a.m. Sick/Unknown Barre Paxton Road – Transported to Hospital
11:45 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Arrest(s) Made
Arrest: Dennis W. Lackey, 46, Gardner
License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With, Subsequent Offense
5:25 p.m. Fraud/Forgery Ridge Road – Report Filed
5:37 p.m. Sick/Unknown Main Street – Ambulance Signed Refusal
8:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pleasantdale Road – Vehicle Towed
Summons: Monica A. Twarog, 24, Wolcott, CT
Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle; Lights Violation, Motor Vehicle; Speeding Rate of Speed Exceeding Posted Limit

Sunday, Feb. 21
2:23 a.m. Erratic Operator Maple Avenue – Written Warning
3:17 a.m. Harassment Maple Avenue – Officer Spoke to Party

Public Notices

Town of Barre HEARING NOTICE Conduit Petition

Under the provisions of the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 166, and any additions or amendments thereto, please be advised that at their meeting of **Monday, March 15, 2021 at 6:45pm** held either at the Henry Woods Building, 40 West Street, or alternatively virtually on the Zoom platform, login information can be found on mytown-government.org/01005, the Barre Board of Selectmen will consider a request to give Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID and Verizon New England, Inc.

Respectfully represents the Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID of North Andover, Massachusetts, that it desires to construct a line of underground electric conduits, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, under and across the public way.

The following are the streets and highways referred to: 29978299 Barre Depot Rd. - Beginning at a point approximately 2500 feet southeast of the centerline of the intersection of Vernon Ave. and Barre Depot Rd. and continuing approximately 230 feet in a southwest direction; National Grid to install 2 new manholes, install two conduits, and install 3-500 CU EPR.

For the Board of Selectmen
Sandra Hood
Administrative Assistant
02/25, 03/04/2021

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket No. 21 SM 000193 ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: Julia R. Gutowski and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):

Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity, but solely as owner trust-

ee for CSMC 2018-RPL6 Trustclaiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Oakham, numbered 453 South Road, given by Stanley L. Gutowski and Julia R. Gutowski to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, acting solely as a nominee for Virtualbank, a Division of Lydian Private Bank, dated February 3, 2006, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 38407, Page 7, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 4/5/2021 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 2/17/2021

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder

02/25/2021

Town of Barre HEARING NOTICE Pole Petition

Under the provisions of the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 166, and any additions or amendments thereto, please be advised that at their meeting of **Monday, March 15, 2021 at 6:30pm** held either at the Henry Woods Building, 40 West Street, or alternatively virtually on the Zoom platform, login information can be found on mytown-government.org/01005, the Barre Board of Selectmen will consider a request

to give Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID and Verizon New England, Inc. permission to install (8) JO poles on Barre Depot Rd., remove (8) JO poles on Bare Depot Rd., relocate (2) JO poles on Barre Depot Rd. beginning at a point approximately 1200 feet south east of the centerline of the intersection of Vernon Ave. and Barre Depot Rd. and continuing approximately 1488 feet in a south direction. National Grid relocating poles along Barre Depot Rd., Barre, MA. If you have any questions you can contact the Select Board's Office at (978) 355-2504 x 135.

For the Board of Selectmen
Sandra Hood
Administrative Assistant
02/25, 03/04/2021

Community Outreach Meeting Adroit Manufacturing, LLC

Notice is hereby given that a Community Outreach Meeting for a proposed Marijuana Establishment, to be located at 435 Lower Rd. Hardwick MA 01031, is scheduled for Monday, **March 15, 2021 at 6 pm**. We will be hosting a Zoom meeting. The Zoom information will be posted on the town website. Questions may be asked in advance, to be answered at the meeting, by emailing them to admin@townofhardwick.com.

There will also be an opportunity for the public to ask questions at the meeting.
02/25/2021

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING Project File No. 608851

A Virtual Design Public Hearing will be published on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed bridge replacement project on Creamery Road Over Ware River in Hardwick and New Braintree, MA.

WHEN: Thursday, March 4, 2021

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed bridge replacement project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: This proposed bridge project consists of a 100' long single span bridge. The bridge will increase the total curb-to-curb width to 14' and an architecturally styled concrete bridge railing system will be located along both sides of the bridge with a steel highway guard railing located on both sides of both approaches. The roadway will be raised approximately 2' to provide for hydraulic clearances which will require approximately 200' of roadway improvements along both sides of the bridge.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Towns of Hardwick and New Braintree towns are responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

Written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking are to be submitted to Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, File No. 608851. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing is posted to the MassDOT website listed below. Project inquiries may be emailed to dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us.

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing.

This Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at www.mass.gov/mass-dot-highway-design-public-hearings.
JONATHAN GULLIVER, HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR
PATRICIA A. LEAVENWORTH, P.E., CHIEF ENGINEER
02/18, 02/25/2021

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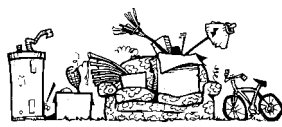
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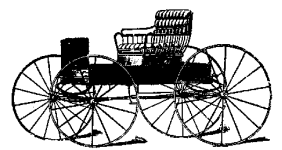
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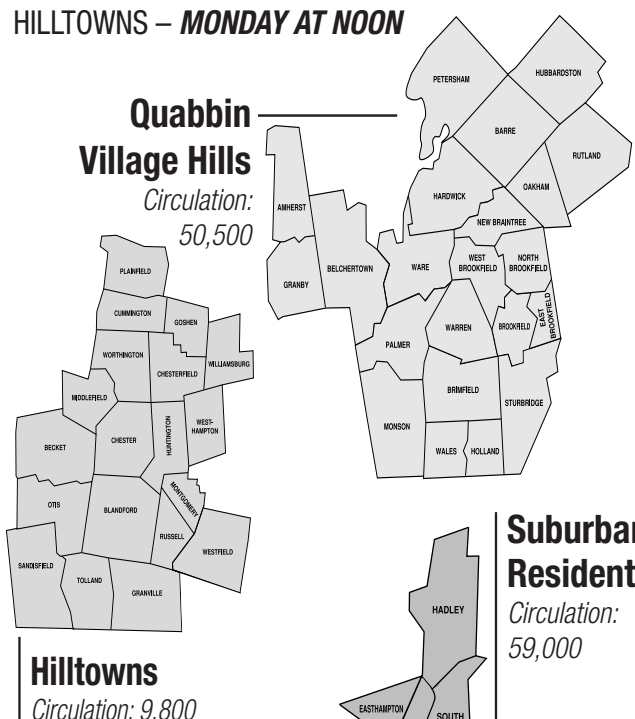
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Worcester Art Musuem presents virtual Flora in Winter

WORCESTER – Flora in Winter, the Worcester Art Museum’s winter floral extravaganza, will be offered to the public virtually this year. One of the region’s most anticipated annual events, Flora in Winter displays flower arrangements inspired by art in the museum’s collection and created by top floral designers from throughout central Massachusetts.

Due to COVID-related capacity restrictions this winter, a limited number of tickets to enjoy Flora in person will be available for museum members only. However, a virtual guided tour of all 24 interpretive arrangements throughout the museum will make the stunning beauty of

flora available for all to enjoy in the comfort of their own homes.

Called “Passport to Virtual Flora” the online package will include a tour of all floral arrangements and displays-led by one of Flora’s co-chairs-plus a variety of online programs and demonstrations by floral design and art history experts.

“Passport to Virtual Flora” will be available free for members; \$40 for nonmembers. Museum members will automatically receive a link to the “Passport” package. Nonmembers can purchase a link to “Passport” on the museum’s website at worcesterart.org/flora.

This year’s Flora in Winter chairpersons are Kathy Michie, Sarah

Ribeiro, and Kim Cutler. Their team oversees the event and maintains the flora designs throughout the four days. Flora in Winter is supported in part by the Bernard G. and Louise B. Palitz Fund and the Spear Fund for Public Programs.

“Passport to Virtual Flora” brings the beauty and excitement of Flora in Winter to participants anywhere in the world. This virtual programming package-inspired by the Worcester Wedding Kimono, specially commissioned from Chiso, the revered 466-year-old Kyoto-based kimono house and on view at the Museum-can be enjoyed an unlimited number of times after February 25, 2021.

Following completion of advance

purchase, guests will receive a “Passport to Virtual Flora” link via email on the first day of Flora in Winter Thursday, Feb. 25 at 10 a.m. It is on sale now through Sunday, Feb. 28 at 6 p.m. and can be purchased at worcesterart.org/flora.

Flora in Winter virtual tour of all 24 floral arrangements and the Japanese table display in McDonough Court, narrated by one of the Flora Co-chairs; plus, a bonus video tour of the professional floral arrangements in the Museum’s public spaces, donated by local businesses, garden clubs, and schools.

Interpretation of the Worcester Wedding Kimono with Maureen Christmas and Andrea Little

Michael Levin will lead a guided tour of the Bonsai West nursery, sharing the history of this famous bonsai collection, which includes trees over 100 years old. Viewers watch as an old overgrown juniper is transformed into a refined specimen bonsai. Topics will include styling, transplanting, wiring, seasonal care and maintenance.

Russell Bowers, an Ikebana Master, demonstrates several Japanese floral arrangement styles. Viewers will observe techniques developed over hundreds of years, which incorporate aspects of Japanese culture and aesthetics-and learn how to add elements of wabi-sabi, minimalism and negative

space into magnificent floral works of art.

Minal Akkad gives an introduction to Furoshiki, an ancient Japanese art and modern alternative to gift-wrapping. Viewers will learn how to use fabric to design beautifully wrapped boxes, bottles and trendy bags.

Sally Jablonski, owner of Herbert E. Berg Florist, demonstrates how she uses flowers and other plant materials to create a spectacular interpretation of a piece from WAM’s collection. Viewers will learn techniques for composing an arrangement using blossoms, leaves and stems to highlight the elements of the artwork and see the creative process unfold.

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